



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



**EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER OF NORTHEAST OHIO
CUYAHOGA COUNTY
JUNE 30, 2024**

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**EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER OF NORTHEAST OHIO
CUYAHOGA COUNTY
JUNE 30, 2024**

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

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio
Cuyahoga County
6393 Oak Tree Boulevard
Independence, Ohio 44131

To the Board of Education:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio, Cuyahoga County, Ohio (the Service Center), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Service Center's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio, Cuyahoga County, Ohio as of June 30, 2024, and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Service Center, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

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 Service Center's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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

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

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

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

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and schedules of net pension and other post-employment benefit liabilities and pension and other post-employment benefit contributions 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 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 auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, 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 opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Service Center's basic financial statements. The Schedules of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget (Non-GAAP Basis) and Actual and the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards as required by Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are 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 auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the Schedules of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget (Non-GAAP Basis) and Actual and the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 21, 2025, on our consideration of the Service Center's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Service Center's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Service Center's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

March 21, 2025

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Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Management's Discussion and Analysis

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Unaudited

The management's discussion and analysis of the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio's (the Service Center) financial performance provides an overall review of the Service Center's financial activities for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. The intent of the management's discussion and analysis is to look at the Service Center's financial performance as a whole; readers should also review the basic financial statements and the notes to the financial statements to enhance their understanding of the Service Center's financial performance.

Financial Highlights

Key financial highlights for 2024 include:

- In fiscal year 2024, total assets and deferred outflows of resources decreased and total liabilities and deferred inflows of resources increased. The decrease in assets is due to decreases in pooled cash and cash equivalents and net OPEB asset. The decrease in liabilities is due to increases in net pension liability and net OPEB liability for fiscal year 2024, offset by decreases in pension and OPEB related deferred inflows.
- Total revenues decreased in fiscal year 2024 versus 2023 due to a decrease in operating grants and contributions. Total expenses decreased mainly due to adjustments for the net pension liability and net OPEB liability.

Using this Annual Financial Report

This annual report consists of two distinct series of financial statements and notes to those statements. These statements are organized so the reader can understand the Service Center as a financial whole, an entire operating entity. The statements then proceed to provide an increasingly detailed look at specific financial activities.

The *Statement of Net Position* and *Statement of Activities* provide information about the activities of the whole Service Center, presenting both an aggregate view of the Service Center's finances and a longer-term view of those finances.

Fund financial statements provide the next level of detail. For governmental funds, these statements tell how services were financed in the short-term as well as what remains for future spending. The fund financial statements also look at the Service Center's most significant funds with all other non-major funds presented in total in one column. In the case of the Service Center, the general fund, local grants and miscellaneous federal grants special revenue funds are the most significant funds.

Reporting the Service Center as a Whole

Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities

While this document contains all the funds used by the Service Center to provide services, the view of the Service Center as a whole considers all financial transactions and asks the questions, "Are we in a better financial position this year than last?" and "Why?" or "Why not?". The *Statement of Net Position* and the *Statement of Activities* provide the basis for answering these questions. These statements include *all non-fiduciary assets and liabilities* using the *accrual basis of accounting* similar to the accounting used by most private-sector companies. Accrual accounting takes into account all of the current year's revenues and expenses regardless of when cash is received or paid.

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Management's Discussion and Analysis

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Unaudited

These two statements report the Service Center's *net position* and any changes in the net position. The change in net position is important because it tells the readers that, for the Service Center as a whole, the *financial position* of the Service Center has improved or diminished. The causes of this change may be the result of many factors, some financial, some not.

The *Statement of Net Position* and the *Statement of Activities* are represented by one type of activity, Governmental Activities. The Service Center's programs and services are reported here including instruction, support services, operation of non-instructional services and extracurricular activities.

Reporting the Service Center's Most Significant Funds

Fund Financial Statements

The analysis of the Service Center's major funds begins on page 10. Fund financial reports provide detailed information about the Service Center's major funds. The Service Center uses many funds to account for a multitude of financial transactions. However, the fund financial statements focus on the Service Center's most significant funds. The Service Center's major governmental funds are the general fund, local grants and miscellaneous federal grants special revenue funds.

Governmental Funds Most of the Service Center's activities are reported in governmental funds, which focus on how money flows into and out of those funds and the balances left at year-end available for spending in future periods. These funds are reported using an accounting method called *modified accrual* accounting, which measures cash and all other *financial assets* that can readily be converted to cash. The governmental fund statements provide a detailed *short-term view* of the Service Center's general government operations and the basic services it provides. Governmental fund information helps you determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance educational programs. The relationship (or differences) between governmental *activities* (reported in the *Statement of Net Position* and the *Statement of Activities*) and governmental *funds* is reconciled in the financial statements.

Proprietary Funds The Service Center maintains one proprietary fund. Internal service funds are an accounting device used to accumulate and allocate costs internally among the Service Center's various functions. The Service Center's internal service fund accounts for payments, administrative costs and reserves of the Service Center's self-insured medical coverage. The proprietary funds use the accrual basis of accounting.

Fiduciary Funds Fiduciary funds are used to account for resources held for the benefit of parties outside the Service Center. Fiduciary funds are not reflected on the government-wide financial statements because the resources from these funds are not available to support the Service Center's programs. These funds use the accrual basis of accounting.

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

*Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024
Unaudited*

The Service Center as a Whole

You may recall that the *Statement of Net Position* provides the perspective of the Service Center as a whole. Table 1 provides a summary of the Service Center's net position for 2024 compared to 2023:

(Table 1)
Net Position

	Governmental Activities		
	2024	2023	Change
Assets			
Current and Other Assets	\$38,251,454	\$40,925,935	(\$2,674,481)
Net OPEB Asset	6,722,613	8,148,829	(1,426,216)
Capital Assets, Net	<u>10,394,999</u>	<u>10,010,973</u>	<u>384,026</u>
<i>Total Assets</i>	<u>55,369,066</u>	<u>59,085,737</u>	<u>(3,716,671)</u>
Deferred Outflows of Resources			
Pension	28,716,089	28,308,514	407,575
OPEB	<u>4,301,827</u>	<u>2,121,553</u>	<u>2,180,274</u>
<i>Deferred Outflows of Resources</i>	<u>33,017,916</u>	<u>30,430,067</u>	<u>2,587,849</u>
Liabilities			
Current and Other Liabilities	9,441,090	10,029,315	588,225
Long-Term Liabilities:			
Due Within One Year	1,647,629	1,362,980	(284,649)
Due in More than One Year:			
Net Pension Liability	105,492,498	99,900,163	(5,592,335)
Net OPEB Liability	8,719,875	7,509,443	(1,210,432)
Other Amounts Due in More than One Year	<u>200,489</u>	<u>463,805</u>	<u>263,316</u>
<i>Total Liabilities</i>	<u>125,501,581</u>	<u>119,265,706</u>	<u>(6,235,875)</u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources			
Lease	2,584,774	2,355,051	(229,723)
Pension	8,220,975	12,905,374	4,684,399
OPEB	<u>14,674,115</u>	<u>16,956,590</u>	<u>2,282,475</u>
<i>Deferred Inflows of Resources</i>	<u>25,479,864</u>	<u>32,217,015</u>	<u>6,737,151</u>
Net Position			
Net Investment in Capital Assets	10,258,983	9,820,502	438,481
Restricted	6,870,579	2,860,079	4,010,500
Unrestricted (Deficit)	<u>(79,724,025)</u>	<u>(74,647,498)</u>	<u>(5,076,527)</u>
<i>Total Net Position</i>	<u><u>(\$62,594,463)</u></u>	<u><u>(\$61,966,917)</u></u>	<u><u>(\$627,546)</u></u>

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Management's Discussion and Analysis

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Unaudited

The net pension liability (NPL) is the largest liability reported by the Service Center at June 30, 2024. 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 Service Center is not responsible for certain key factors affecting the balance of these 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.

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. 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.

Net position decreased from the prior fiscal year due to a decrease in total assets and deferred outflows of resources being slightly offset by an overall increase in total liabilities and deferred inflows of resources, specifically the net pension/OPEB liability/asset and the related deferred inflows and deferred outflows. Total assets decreased due to a decrease in cash as a result of expenditures outpacing revenues. Total liabilities increased due to increases in net pension liability and net OPEB liability as a result from changes in assumptions and benefit terms related to pensions.

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

*Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024
Unaudited*

Table 2 shows the change in net position for fiscal year 2024 as compared to fiscal year 2023.

(Table 2)
Change in Net Position
Governmental Activities

	2024	2023	Change
Revenues			
<i>Program Revenues:</i>			
Charges for Services and Sales	\$94,802,942	\$98,125,770	(\$3,322,828)
Operating Grants and Contributions	<u>24,167,514</u>	<u>27,958,039</u>	(3,790,525)
<i>Total Program Revenues</i>	<u>118,970,456</u>	<u>126,083,809</u>	(7,113,353)
<i>General Revenues:</i>			
Grants and Entitlements	7,043,279	7,139,600	(96,321)
Investment Earnings	646,198	366,713	279,485
Gain on Sale of Capital Assets	501,315	0	501,315
Miscellaneous	<u>2,983,695</u>	<u>1,901,585</u>	1,082,110
<i>Total General Revenues</i>	<u>11,174,487</u>	<u>9,407,898</u>	1,766,589
Total Revenues	<u>130,144,943</u>	<u>135,491,707</u>	(5,346,764)
Program Expenses			
Instruction	61,394,600	66,392,274	4,997,674
<i>Support Services:</i>			
Pupil and Instructional Staff	28,985,923	26,287,521	(2,698,402)
Board of Education, Administration,			
Fiscal and Business	21,195,210	19,901,951	(1,293,259)
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	3,222,056	2,351,011	(871,045)
Pupil Transportation	50,596	20,173	(30,423)
Central	4,441,006	3,914,325	(526,681)
Operation of Non-Instructional Services	11,360,808	12,548,189	1,187,381
Extracurricular Activities	120,639	125,232	4,593
Interest	<u>1,651</u>	<u>12,843</u>	11,192
<i>Total Program Expenses</i>	<u>130,772,489</u>	<u>131,553,519</u>	781,030
Change in Net Position	(627,546)	3,938,188	(4,565,734)
<i>Net Position Beginning of Year</i>	<u>(61,966,917)</u>	<u>(65,905,105)</u>	3,938,188
<i>Net Position End of Year</i>	<u>(\$62,594,463)</u>	<u>(\$61,966,917)</u>	(\$627,546)

Governmental Activities

The largest component of the decrease in program expenses results from changes in assumptions and benefit terms related to pensions in the prior year. As a result of these changes, pension and OPEB expenses increased in fiscal year 2024.

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

*Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024
Unaudited*

A review of Table 2 illustrates the concept of sound fiscal management in the government sector. The Service Center's concept of bringing its fiscal agencies under a common campus to align services, share resources and create economies of scale does work. A willingness to honestly assess programs and discontinue unprofitable ones is key to long term operations. Flexibility and adherence to basic management principles is key to continued successful operations.

The *Statement of Activities* shows the cost of program services and the charges for services and grants offsetting those services for governmental activities. Table 3 shows the total cost of services and the net cost of services. The *Net Cost of Services 2024* tells the reader that overall these services are self-supporting and do not rely on unrestricted State entitlements and unrestricted net position to operate this fiscal year.

(Table 3)
Governmental Activities

	Total Cost of Services 2024	Net Cost of Services 2024	Total Cost of Services 2023	Net Cost of Services 2023
Instruction	\$61,394,600	(\$1,554,572)	\$66,392,274	(\$111,018)
Support Services:				
Pupil and Instructional Staff	28,985,923	(4,313,905)	26,287,521	(2,628,946)
Board of Education, Administration, Fiscal and Business	21,195,210	(3,796,461)	19,901,951	(4,670,001)
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	3,222,056	(207,853)	2,351,011	(8,732)
Pupil Transportation	50,596	(5,795)	20,173	(2,948)
Central	4,441,006	(1,270,285)	3,914,325	129,644
Operation of Non-Instructional Services	11,360,808	(646,161)	12,548,189	1,919,701
Extracurricular Activities	120,639	(5,350)	125,232	(84,567)
Interest	1,651	(1,651)	12,843	(12,843)
<i>Totals</i>	<u>\$130,772,489</u>	<u>(\$11,802,033)</u>	<u>\$131,553,519</u>	<u>(\$5,469,710)</u>

The Service Center's Funds

Information about the Service Center's major funds starts on page 15. These funds are accounted for using the modified accrual basis of accounting. For all governmental funds, expenditures outpaced revenues and other financing sources during fiscal year 2024. The local grants special revenue fund had an increase in fund balance. The general fund and miscellaneous federal grants special revenue fund had decreases in fund balance.

The general fund is the primary source of start up funds for many of the other grant activities. Fast response to client needs and starting up an activity before initial funding arrives is what separates the Service Center from its competition. The downside to such a philosophy is that the Service Center will be an early barometer to cutbacks and difficult economic times. The nature of school employment law does make the Service Center vulnerable to second-guessing the best management approach to riding out the downturn.

The local grants special revenue fund had an increase in fund balance. The increase in fund balance is due to revenues outpacing expenditures for the fiscal year due to the timing of payables compared to the prior year.

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Management's Discussion and Analysis

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Unaudited

The miscellaneous federal grants special revenue fund had a decrease in fund balance. The decrease in fund balance is due to the timing of grant revenue from the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce and Ohio Department of Health.

Capital Assets

Table 4 shows fiscal year 2024 balances compared to fiscal year 2023. More detailed information is presented in Note 9 of the notes to the basic financial statements.

(Table 4)
Capital Assets at June 30
(Net of Depreciation)

	Governmental Activities	
	2024	2023
Land	\$405,629	\$549,004
Buildings and Improvements	9,072,072	8,480,148
Furniture and Equipment	797,503	806,736
Intangible Right to Use Lease - Equipment	119,795	175,085
<i>Total Capital Assets</i>	<u>\$10,394,999</u>	<u>\$10,010,973</u>

The increase in capital assets is mainly due to additions outpacing deletions plus current year depreciation during the fiscal year.

Debt

At the end of fiscal year 2024, the outstanding balance on leases payable was \$136,016. More detailed information is presented in Note 13 of the notes to the basic financial statement.

Current Financial Related Activities

The Service Center continues to be financially stable and is able to continue to offer the programs needed to enrich and service the various school districts. The Board and administration closely monitor its revenues and expenditures in accordance with Board policy.

The Service Center delivers valuable programs to its clients and school districts, which preserve positive relationships with the school districts and clients.

Beginning July 1, 2015, the Service Center expanded its service footprint from thirty-one school districts located in Cuyahoga County to include an additional fifteen school districts located in Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Portage and Summit Counties. As part of this expansion the Service Center has also begun to expand several of its key service and program areas, including personnel, substitute management, professional development, professional learning networks and technology.

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Management's Discussion and Analysis

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Unaudited

While many outside factors can and will affect the economy and base operations, the Service Center is committed to provide the best possible services and be fiscally responsible now and in future years. The Service Center is constantly evaluating its programs and expanding where it can provide cost effective services to school districts. Cost effective services to districts is the Service Center's guiding mission. If the Service Center does not provide efficiency, there is no reason for a district to contract with the Service Center. Trust, flexibility and responsiveness are key to the Service Center's success.

Contacting the Service Center's Financial Management

This financial report provides our citizen's, taxpayers, and investors and creditors with a general overview of the Service Center's finances and to show the Service Center's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional financial information contact Bruce Basalla, Treasurer at the Service Center, 6393 Oak Tree Boulevard., Independence, Ohio 44131.

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Statement of Net Position

June 30, 2024

	Governmental Activities
Assets	
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$27,773,527
Accrued Interest Receivable	18,579
Accounts Receivable	26,337
Intergovernmental Receivable	7,785,229
Lease Receivable	2,338,744
Prepaid Items	178,743
Due From Custodial Funds	130,295
Net OPEB Asset (See Note 18)	6,722,613
Nondepreciable Capital Assets	405,629
Depreciable Capital Assets, Net	<u>9,989,370</u>
<i>Total Assets</i>	<u>55,369,066</u>
Deferred Outflows of Resources	
Pension	28,716,089
OPEB	<u>4,301,827</u>
<i>Total Deferred Outflows of Resources</i>	<u>33,017,916</u>
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	3,536,203
Accrued Wages and Benefits	4,199,738
Intergovernmental Payable	986,190
Claims Payable	714,466
Unearned Revenue	4,493
Long-Term Liabilities:	
Due Within One Year	1,647,629
Due In More Than One Year:	
Net Pension Liability (See Note 17)	105,492,498
Net OPEB Liability (See Note 18)	8,719,875
Other Amounts Due in More Than One Year	<u>200,489</u>
<i>Total Liabilities</i>	<u>125,501,581</u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources	
Leases	2,584,774
Pension	8,220,975
OPEB	<u>14,674,115</u>
<i>Total Deferred Inflows of Resources</i>	<u>25,479,864</u>
Net Position	
Net Investment in Capital Assets	10,258,983
Restricted for:	
Capital Outlay	299
Unclaimed Monies	147,667
OPEB Plans	6,722,613
Unrestricted (Deficit)	<u>(79,724,025)</u>
<i>Total Net Position</i>	<u>(\$62,594,463)</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Statement of Activities

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Program Revenues			Net Revenue (Expense) and Changes in Net Position
	Expenses	Charges for Services and Sales	Operating Grants and Contributions	Governmental Activities
	Governmental Activities			
Instruction:				
Regular	\$36,532,694	\$24,359,044	\$6,579,333	(\$5,594,317)
Special	24,183,370	28,240,489	110,260	4,167,379
Vocational	678,536	550,902	0	(127,634)
Support Services:				
Pupil	16,246,200	10,880,740	2,190,740	(3,174,720)
Instructional Staff	12,739,723	5,476,547	6,123,991	(1,139,185)
Board of Education	48,971	36,997	0	(11,974)
Administration	16,480,480	11,886,751	1,848,655	(2,745,074)
Fiscal	4,602,547	3,200,927	372,170	(1,029,450)
Business	63,212	53,249	0	(9,963)
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	3,222,056	2,882,653	131,550	(207,853)
Pupil Transportation	50,596	21,402	23,399	(5,795)
Central	4,441,006	858,535	2,312,186	(1,270,285)
Operation of Non-Instructional Services	11,360,808	6,239,417	4,475,230	(646,161)
Extracurricular Activities	120,639	115,289	0	(5,350)
Interest	1,651	0	0	(1,651)
<i>Totals</i>	<i><u>\$130,772,489</u></i>	<i><u>\$94,802,942</u></i>	<i><u>\$24,167,514</u></i>	<i><u>(11,802,033)</u></i>
 General Revenues				
Grants and Entitlements not Restricted to Specific Programs				7,043,279
Investment Earnings/Interest				646,198
Gain on Sale of Capital Assets				501,315
Miscellaneous				<u>2,983,695</u>
<i>Total General Revenues</i>				<i><u>11,174,487</u></i>
Change in Net Position				(627,546)
<i>Net Position Beginning of Year</i>				<i><u>(61,966,917)</u></i>
<i>Net Position End of Year</i>				<i><u>(\$62,594,463)</u></i>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Balance Sheet

Governmental Funds

June 30, 2024

	General	Local Grants	Miscellaneous Federal Grants	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Assets					
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$20,683,456	\$66,176	\$293,373	\$1,378,373	\$22,421,378
Receivables:					
Accrued Interest	18,579	0	0	0	18,579
Accounts	26,337	0	0	0	26,337
Intergovernmental	4,964,156	1,602,293	389,101	829,679	7,785,229
Lease Receivable	2,338,744	0	0	0	2,338,744
Interfund Receivable	4,343,465	0	0	0	4,343,465
Due from Custodial Funds	130,295	0	0	0	130,295
Prepaid Items	178,743	0	0	0	178,743
Restricted Assets:					
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	147,667	0	0	0	147,667
<i>Total Assets</i>	<u>\$32,831,442</u>	<u>\$1,668,469</u>	<u>\$682,474</u>	<u>\$2,208,052</u>	<u>\$37,390,437</u>
Liabilities					
Accounts Payable	\$234,299	\$2,927,662	\$270,884	\$103,358	\$3,536,203
Accrued Wages and Benefits	3,653,151	197,735	43,243	305,609	4,199,738
Intergovernmental Payable	707,536	49,667	140,315	88,672	986,190
Interfund Payable	0	370,000	1,500,000	2,473,465	4,343,465
Unearned Revenue	0	0	0	4,493	4,493
<i>Total Liabilities</i>	<u>4,594,986</u>	<u>3,545,064</u>	<u>1,954,442</u>	<u>2,975,597</u>	<u>13,070,089</u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources					
Unavailable Revenue	1,974,371	25,334	189,208	744,741	2,933,654
Leases	2,584,774	0	0	0	2,584,774
<i>Total Deferred Inflows of Resources</i>	<u>4,559,145</u>	<u>25,334</u>	<u>189,208</u>	<u>744,741</u>	<u>5,518,428</u>
Fund Balances					
Nonspendable	326,410	0	0	0	326,410
Restricted	0	0	0	4,654	4,654
Committed	1,046,005	0	0	0	1,046,005
Assigned	9,700,711	0	0	0	9,700,711
Unassigned (Deficit)	12,604,185	(1,901,929)	(1,461,176)	(1,516,940)	7,724,140
<i>Total Fund Balances (Deficit)</i>	<u>23,677,311</u>	<u>(1,901,929)</u>	<u>(1,461,176)</u>	<u>(1,512,286)</u>	<u>18,801,920</u>
<i>Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources and Fund Balances</i>	<u><u>\$32,831,442</u></u>	<u><u>\$1,668,469</u></u>	<u><u>\$682,474</u></u>	<u><u>\$2,208,052</u></u>	<u><u>\$37,390,437</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio
Reconciliation of Total Governmental Fund Balances to
Net Position of Governmental Activities
June 30, 2024

Total Governmental Fund Balances \$18,801,920

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

Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported in the funds. 10,394,999

Other long-term assets are not available to pay for current-period expenditures and therefore are reported as unavailable revenue in the funds:

Intergovernmental	933,074
Tuition and Fees	872,085
Rentals	250
Charges for Services	1,120,182
Miscellaneous	430
Reimbursable Expenses	7,633
Total	2,933,654

The internal service fund is used by management to charge the costs of medical insurance to individual funds. The assets and liabilities of the internal service fund is included in governmental activities in the statement of net position. 4,490,016

Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds:

Lease Payable	(136,016)
Compensated Absences	(1,712,102)
Total	(1,848,118)

The net pension liability and net OPEB liability/asset is not due and payable in the current period; therefore, the asset, liability and related deferred inflows/outflows are not reported in the governmental funds:

Deferred Outflows - Pension	28,716,089
Deferred Inflows - Pension	(8,220,975)
Net Pension Liability	(105,492,498)
Deferred Outflows - OPEB	4,301,827
Deferred Inflows - OPEB	(14,674,115)
Net OPEB Liability	(8,719,875)
Net OPEB Asset	6,722,613
Total	(97,366,934)

Net Position of Governmental Activities (\$62,594,463)

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances
Governmental Funds
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	General	Local Grants	Miscellaneous Federal Grants	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Revenues					
Intergovernmental	\$7,149,337	\$11,338,538	\$5,286,291	\$8,554,117	\$32,328,283
Investment Earnings/Interest	646,198	0	0	0	646,198
Tuition and Fees	22,593,682	0	0	0	22,593,682
Rentals	408,779	0	0	0	408,779
Charges for Services	52,075,903	18,745,112	0	37,304	70,858,319
Leases	596,383	0	0	0	596,383
Contributions and Donations	0	20,000	0	0	20,000
Miscellaneous	277,547	2,602,424	0	103,294	2,983,265
<i>Total Revenues</i>	<i>83,747,829</i>	<i>32,706,074</i>	<i>5,286,291</i>	<i>8,694,715</i>	<i>130,434,909</i>
Expenditures					
Current:					
Instruction:					
Regular	18,156,716	18,249,380	0	112,126	36,518,222
Special	25,068,067	0	0	32,194	25,100,261
Vocational	722,013	0	0	0	722,013
Support Services:					
Pupil	13,630,270	129,794	1,658,836	1,085,869	16,504,769
Instructional Staff	5,872,884	1,213,432	219,640	5,581,021	12,886,977
Board of Education	48,971	0	0	0	48,971
Administration	13,133,768	1,947,814	274,037	1,244,521	16,600,140
Fiscal	4,181,640	223	73,801	361,997	4,617,661
Business	62,971	0	0	4,070	67,041
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	3,017,951	0	0	141,348	3,159,299
Pupil Transportation	26,727	0	0	22,268	48,995
Central	1,028,555	107,077	3,142,099	164,473	4,442,204
Operation of Non-Instructional Services	0	9,965,189	1,379,054	8,612	11,352,855
Extracurricular Activities	103,897	0	0	16,430	120,327
Capital Outlay	8,160	0	0	0	8,160
Debt Service:					
Principal Retirement	54,455	0	0	0	54,455
Interest	1,651	0	0	0	1,651
<i>Total Expenditures</i>	<i>85,118,696</i>	<i>31,612,909</i>	<i>6,747,467</i>	<i>8,774,929</i>	<i>132,254,001</i>
<i>Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures</i>	<i>(1,370,867)</i>	<i>1,093,165</i>	<i>(1,461,176)</i>	<i>(80,214)</i>	<i>(1,819,092)</i>
Other Financing Sources (Uses)					
Sale of Capital Assets	649,475	0	0	0	649,475
<i>Net Change in Fund Balances</i>	<i>(721,392)</i>	<i>1,093,165</i>	<i>(1,461,176)</i>	<i>(80,214)</i>	<i>(1,169,617)</i>
<i>Fund Balances (Deficit) Beginning of Year</i>	<i>24,398,703</i>	<i>(2,995,094)</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>(1,432,072)</i>	<i>19,971,537</i>
<i>Fund Balances (Deficit) End of Year</i>	<i>\$23,677,311</i>	<i>(\$1,901,929)</i>	<i>(\$1,461,176)</i>	<i>(\$1,512,286)</i>	<i>\$18,801,920</i>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio
*Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes
 in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities
 For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

Net Change in Fund Balances - Total Governmental Funds (\$1,169,617)

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

Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets are allocated over their useful lives as depreciation/amortization expense. This is the amount by which capital outlay exceeded depreciation/amortization in the current period:

Capital Asset Additions	1,205,022
Current Year Depreciation/Amortization	<u>(672,836)</u>
Total	532,186

Governmental funds only report the disposal of capital assets to the extent proceeds are received from the sale. In the statement of activities, a gain or loss is reported for each disposal. (148,160)

Revenues in the statement of activities that do not provide current financial resources are not reported as revenues in the funds.

Intergovernmental	(1,137,490)
Tuition and Fees	(324,566)
Rentals	(50)
Charges for Services	670,395
Miscellaneous	430
Reimbursable Expenses	<u>(323,062)</u>
Total	(1,114,343)

Repayment of lease payable principal is an expenditure in the governmental funds, but the repayment reduces long-term liabilities in the statement of net position. 54,455

Some expenses reported in the statement of activities, such as compensated absences, do not require the use of current financial resources and therefore are not reported as expenditures in governmental funds. (75,788)

The internal service fund used by management is not reported in the Service Center statement of activities. Governmental fund expenditures and related internal service fund revenues are eliminated. The net revenue (expense) of the internal service fund is allocated among the governmental activities. (32,019)

Contractually required contributions are reported as expenditures in governmental funds; however, the statement of net position reports these amounts as deferred outflows:

Pension	9,524,718
OPEB	<u>236,335</u>
Total	9,761,053

Except for amounts reported as deferred inflows/outflows, changes in the net pension/OPEB liability/asset are reported as pension/OPEB expense in the statement of activities:

Pension	(10,025,079)
OPEB	<u>1,589,766</u>
Total	(8,435,313)

Change in Net Position of Governmental Activities

(\$627,546)

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Statement of Fund Net Position

Internal Service Fund

June 30, 2024

Assets

Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$5,204,482
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Liabilities

Claims Payable	<u>714,466</u>
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Net Position

Unrestricted	<u><u>\$4,490,016</u></u>
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See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Statement of Revenues,

Expenses and Changes in Fund Net Position

Internal Service Fund

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Operating Revenues

Charges for Services	<u>\$11,864,069</u>
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Operating Expenses

Purchased Services	64,556
Claims	<u>11,831,532</u>

<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	<u>11,896,088</u>
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<i>Change in Net Position</i>	(32,019)
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<i>Net Position Beginning of Year</i>	<u>4,522,035</u>
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<i>Net Position End of Year</i>	<u>\$4,490,016</u>
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See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Statement of Cash Flows

Internal Service Fund

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash Flows from Operating Activities

Cash Received from Interfund Services Provided	\$11,864,069
Cash Payments for Claims	(11,848,844)
Cash Payments for Services	<u>(64,556)</u>

<i>Net Decrease in Cash and Cash Equivalents</i>	(49,331)
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<i>Cash and Cash Equivalents Beginning of Year</i>	<u>5,253,813</u>
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<i>Cash and Cash Equivalents End of Year</i>	<u><u>\$5,204,482</u></u>
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***Reconciliation of Operating Loss to
Net Cash Used for Operating Activities***

<i>Operating Loss</i>	(<u>\$32,019</u>)
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Adjustments

Decrease in Claims Payable	<u>(17,312)</u>
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<i>Net Cash Used for Operating Activities</i>	<u><u>(\$49,331)</u></u>
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See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Statement of Fiduciary Net Position

Custodial Fund

June 30, 2024

Assets

Intergovernmental Receivable	\$130,295
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Liabilities

Due to Governmental Funds	<u>130,295</u>
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Net Position

Restricted for Individuals, Organizations and Other Governments	<u><u>\$0</u></u>
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See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position

Custodial Fund

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Additions

Collections for Other Organizations	\$1,495,780
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Deletions

Distributions to Other Organizations	<u>1,495,780</u>
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<i>Change in Fiduciary Net Position</i>	0
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<i>Net Position Beginning of Year</i>	<u>0</u>
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<i>Net Position End of Year</i>	<u><u>\$0</u></u>
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Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Note 1 – Description of the Service Center

In 1914, the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio (the Service Center) was formed. The Service Center supplies special education, supervisory, administrative, fiscal and other needed services to area school districts throughout northeast Ohio.

The Service Center operates under a locally-elected five-member Governing Board form of government and provides educational services as mandated by State or federal agencies to one exempted village, to three local and forty-one city school districts and two career centers. The Board controls the Service Center's staff who provide services that impact 200,000 plus students 0 to 18 years of age attending numerous school districts. The Service Center's special education services also draw students from school districts throughout northeast Ohio, sometimes from as far away as Toledo and Columbus.

Reporting Entity

A reporting entity is comprised of the primary government, component units and other organizations that are included to ensure that the financial statements are not misleading. The primary government of the Service Center consists of all funds, departments, boards and agencies that are not legally separate from the Service Center. For the Service Center, this includes the agencies and departments that provide the following services: general operations and related special education, supervisory, administrative and fiscal activities of the Service Center.

Component units are legally separate organizations for which the Service Center is financially accountable. The Service Center is financially accountable for an organization if the Service Center appoints a voting majority of the organization's governing board and (1) the Service Center is able to significantly influence the programs or services performed or provided by the organization; or (2) the Service Center is legally entitled to or can otherwise access the organization's resources; the Service Center is legally obligated or has otherwise assumed the responsibility to finance deficits of, or provide financial support to, the organization; or the Service Center is obligated for the debt of the organization. Component units may also include organizations that are fiscally dependent on the Service Center in that the Service Center approves the budget, the issuance of debt or the levying of taxes and there is a potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to, or impose specific financial burdens on, the primary government. The Service Center has no component units.

The Service Center participates in three jointly governed organizations. These organizations are Connect, Positive Education Program and the Portage Area School Consortium. These organizations are presented in Note 14 in the notes to the basic financial statements.

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements of the Service Center have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. 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 Service Center's accounting policies are described as follows.

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Basis of Presentation

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

Government-wide Financial Statements The statement of net position and the statement of activities display information about the Service Center as a whole. These statements include the financial activities of the primary government, except for fiduciary funds. The activity of the internal service fund is eliminated to avoid "doubling up" revenues and expenses. These statements usually distinguish between those activities that are governmental and those that are considered business-type. The Service Center, however, has only governmental activities.

The statement of net position presents the financial condition of the governmental activities of the Service Center at year end. The statement of activities presents a comparison between direct expenses and program revenues for each program or function of the Service Center's governmental activities. Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with a service, program or department and therefore are clearly identifiable to a particular function. Program revenues include charges paid by the recipient of the goods or services offered by the program, grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program and interest earned on grants that is required to be used to support a particular program. Revenues which are not classified as program revenues are presented as general revenues of the Service Center, with certain limited exceptions. The comparison of direct expenses with program revenues identifies the extent to which each governmental activity is self-financing or draws from the general revenues of the Service Center.

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

Fund Accounting

The Service Center uses funds to maintain its financial records during the fiscal year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. The funds of the Service Center are divided into three categories: governmental, proprietary and fiduciary.

Governmental Funds Governmental funds are those through which most governmental functions of the Service Center typically are financed. Governmental fund reporting focuses on the sources, uses and balances of current financial resources. Expendable assets are assigned to the various governmental funds according to the purposes for which they may or must be used. Current liabilities are assigned to the fund from which they will be paid. The difference between governmental fund assets and liabilities and deferred inflows of resources is reported as fund balance. The Service Center has the following major governmental funds.

General Fund The general fund is the operating fund of the Service Center and is used to account for and report all financial resources except those required to be accounted for and reported in another fund.

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Local Grants Fund The local grants special revenue fund accounts for the proceeds of specific revenue sources, except for state and federal grants that are legally restricted to expenditures for specified purposes.

Miscellaneous Federal Grants Fund The miscellaneous federal grants special revenue fund accounts for various restricted monies received through state agencies from the federal government or directly from the federal government which are not classified elsewhere.

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

Proprietary Fund Type Proprietary funds focus on the determination of operating income, changes in net position, financial position and cash flows and are classified as either enterprise or internal service. The Service Center only has one internal service fund.

Internal Service Fund The internal service fund accounts for the financing of services provided by one department or agency to other departments or agencies of the Service Center on a cost-reimbursement basis. The internal service fund accounts for payments, administrative costs and reserves of the Service Center's self-insured medical coverage.

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

The Service Center's fiduciary funds are custodial funds. Custodial funds are used to account for assets held by the Service Center as fiscal agent for other organizations. The liabilities represent amounts where no further action is needed to release the assets to the other organizations.

Measurement Focus

Government-wide Financial Statements The government-wide financial statements are prepared using the economic resources measurement focus. All assets and deferred outflows of resources and all liabilities and deferred inflows of resources associated with the operation of the Service Center are included on the statement of net position. The statement of activities presents increases (i.e., revenues) and decreases (i.e., expenses) in total net position.

Fund Financial Statements All governmental funds are accounted for using a flow of current financial resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, only current assets and deferred outflows of resources and current liabilities and deferred inflows of resources generally are included on the balance sheet. The statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balances reports on the sources (i.e., revenues and other financing sources) and uses (i.e., expenditures and other financing uses) of current financial resources. This approach differs from the manner in which the governmental activities of the government-wide financial statements are prepared. Governmental fund financial statements therefore include reconciliations with brief explanations to better identify the relationship between the government-wide statements and the statements for governmental funds.

Like the government-wide statements, all proprietary and fiduciary funds are accounted for on a flow of economic resources measurement focus. All assets and deferred outflows of resources and all liabilities and deferred inflows of resources associated with the operation of these funds are included on the statement

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

of fund net position. In fiduciary funds, a liability to the beneficiaries of fiduciary activity is recognized when an event has occurred that compels the government to disburse fiduciary resources. Fiduciary fund liabilities other than those to beneficiaries are recognized using the economic resources measurement focus.

For proprietary funds, the statement of changes in fund net position presents increases (i.e., revenues) and decreases (i.e., expenses) in net total position. The statement of cash flows provides information about how the Service Center finances and meets the cash flow needs of its proprietary activities.

Fiduciary funds present a statement of changes in fiduciary net position which reports additions to and deductions from the custodial fund.

Basis of Accounting

Basis of accounting determines when transactions are recorded in the financial records and reported on the financial statements. Government-wide financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. Governmental funds use the modified accrual basis of accounting. Proprietary and fiduciary funds use the accrual basis of accounting. Differences between the accrual and the modified accrual basis of accounting arise in the recognition of revenue, the recording of deferred outflows/inflows of resources, and in the presentation of expenses versus expenditures.

Revenues - 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. On a modified accrual basis, revenue is recorded in the fiscal year in which the resources are measurable and become available. Available means that the resources will be collected within the current fiscal year or are expected to be collected soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current fiscal year. For the Service Center, available means expected to be received within sixty days of fiscal year end.

Nonexchange transactions, in which the Service Center receives value without directly giving equal value in return, include grants, entitlements and donations. On an accrual basis, 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 fiscal year when the resources are required to be used or the fiscal year when use is first permitted, matching requirements, in which the Service Center must provide local resources to be used for a specified purpose, and expenditure requirements, in which the resources are provided to the Service Center on a reimbursement basis. On a modified accrual basis, revenue from nonexchange transactions must also be available before it can be recognized.

Under the modified accrual basis, the following revenue sources are considered to be both measurable and available at year-end: intergovernmental, investment earnings/interest, tuition and fees, rentals, charges for services, and miscellaneous.

Unearned Revenue Unearned revenue represents amounts under the accrual and modified accrual basis of accounting for which asset recognition criteria have been met, but for which revenue recognition criteria have not yet been met because the amounts have not yet been earned. The Service Center recognizes unearned revenue for intergovernmental revenue from grants received before the eligibility requirements are met.

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources In addition to assets, the statements of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. Deferred outflows of resources, represents 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 Service Center, deferred outflows of resources are reported on the government-wide statement of net position for pension and OPEB plans. The deferred outflows of resources related to pension and OPEB plans are explained in Notes 17 and 18.

In addition to liabilities, the statements of financial 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 as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. For the Service Center, deferred inflows of resources include leases, pension, OPEB and unavailable revenue. The deferred inflow for leases is related to the leases receivable and is being recognized as lease revenue in a systematic and rational manner over the term of the lease. Unavailable revenue is reported only on the governmental funds balance sheet, and represents receivables which will not be collected within the available period. For the Service Center, unavailable revenue includes intergovernmental, tuition and fees, rentals, charges for services, miscellaneous and reimbursable expenditures. These amounts are deferred and recognized as an inflow of resources in the period the amounts become available. The details of these unavailable revenues are identified on the reconciliation of total governmental fund balances to net position of governmental activities found on page 16. Deferred inflows of resources related to pension and OPEB plans are reported on the government-wide statement of net position. (See Notes 17 and 18).

Pensions/Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)

For purposes of measuring the net pension/OPEB liability (asset), deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions/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.

Expenses/Expenditures On the accrual basis of accounting, expenses are recognized at the time they are incurred.

The measurement focus of governmental fund accounting is on decreases in net financial resources (expenditures) rather than expenses. Expenditures are generally recognized in the accounting period in which the related fund liability is incurred, if measurable. Allocations of cost, such as depreciation and amortization, are not recognized in governmental funds.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

To improve cash management, cash received by the Service Center is pooled. Monies for all funds are maintained in this pool. Individual fund integrity is maintained through Service Center records. Interest in the pool is presented as "equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents."

During fiscal year 2024, investments were limited to mutual funds, negotiable certificates of deposits, United States Treasury notes, federal home loan bank bonds, federal home loan mortgage corporation notes, federal farm credit bank bonds, federal national mortgage association bonds, federal agricultural mortgage corporation notes, United States Treasury bills, United States Treasury bonds, and STAR Ohio. Except for STAR Ohio, investments are reported at fair value, which is based on quoted market price or current share.

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

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

STAR Ohio reserves the right to limit participant transactions to \$250 million per day. Transactions in all of a participant's accounts will be combined for this purpose. Twenty-four hours advance notice to STAR Ohio is appreciated for purchases or redemptions of \$100 million or more. For fiscal year 2024, there were no limitations or restrictions on any participant withdrawals due to redemption notice periods, liquidity fees, or redemption gates.

Under existing Ohio statutes all investment earnings are assigned to the general fund unless statutorily required to be credited to a specific fund. Investment earnings/interest revenue credited to the general fund during 2024 amounted to \$646,198 which includes \$143,578 assigned from other Service Center funds.

Investments of the cash management pool and investments with an original maturity of three months or less at the time they are purchased by the Service Center are presented on the financial statements as cash equivalents. Investments with an initial maturity of more than three months not purchased from the pool are reported as investments.

Restricted Assets

Assets are reported as restricted when limitations on the use change in nature or normal understanding of the availability of the asset. Such constraints are either externally imposed by creditors, contributors, grantors, or law of other governments or imposed by law through constitutional provisions. Restricted assets in the general fund represent money required by State statute to be set aside for unclaimed monies.

Prepaid Items

Payments made to vendors for services that will benefit periods beyond June 30, 2024, are recorded as prepaid items using the consumption method. A current asset for the prepaid amount is recorded at the time of the purchase and an expenditure/expense is reported in the year in which services are consumed.

Capital Assets

The only capital assets of the Service Center are general capital assets. General capital assets are capital assets which are associated with and generally arise from governmental activities. They generally result from expenditures in the governmental funds. General capital assets are reported in the governmental activities column of the governmental-wide statement of net position but are not reported in the fund financial statements.

All capital assets (except for intangible right-to-use lease assets which are discussed below) are capitalized at cost (or estimated historical cost) and updated for additions and retirements during the year. Donated capital assets are recorded at their fair market values as of the date received. The Service Center maintains a capitalization threshold of five hundred dollars. The Service Center does not possess any infrastructure. Improvements are capitalized; the costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend an asset's life are not.

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

All capital assets are depreciated except for land. Improvements are depreciated over the remaining useful lives of the related capital assets. Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over the following useful lives:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Lives</u>
Buildings	75 years
Building Improvements	15 years
Furniture and Equipment	5-20 years
Intangible Right to Use - Equipment	5 years

The Service Center is reporting intangible right to use assets related to lease assets. The lease asset includes equipment and represent nonfinancial assets which are being utilized for a period of time through leases from another entity. These intangible right to use assets are being amortized in a systematic and rational manner over the shorter of the lease term or the useful life of the underlying asset.

Interfund Balances

On the fund financial statements, receivables and payables resulting from short-term interfund loans are classified as “interfund receivables/payables.” These amounts are eliminated on the governmental activities column of the statement of net position.

Compensated Absences

Vacation benefits are accrued as a liability as the benefits are earned if the employees' rights to receive compensation are attributable to services already rendered and it is probable that the Service Center will compensate the employees for the benefits through paid time off or some other means. The Service Center records a liability for accumulated unused vacation time when earned for all employees with more than one year of service.

Sick leave benefits are accrued as a liability using the vesting method. The liability includes the employees who are currently eligible to receive termination benefits and those the Service Center has identified as probable of receiving payment in the future. The amount is based on accumulated sick leave and employees' wage rates at fiscal year end, taking into consideration any limits specified in the Service Center's termination policy. The Service Center records a liability for accumulated unused sick leave for classified, certified and administrative employees after ten years of current service with the Service Center.

Leases

The Service Center serves as both lessee and lessor in various noncancelable leases which are accounted for as follows:

Lessee At the commencement of a lease, the Service Center initially measures the lease liability at the present value of payments expected to be made during the lease term. Subsequently, the lease liability is reduced by the principal portion of lease payments made. The lease asset is initially measured as the initial amount of the lease liability, adjusted for lease payments made at or before the lease commencement date, plus certain initial direct costs. Subsequently, the lease asset is amortized on a straight-line basis over its useful life. Lease assets are reported with other capital assets and lease liabilities are reported with long-term debt on the statement of net position.

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Lessor At the commencement of a lease, the Service Center initially measures the lease receivable at the present value of payments expected to be received during the lease term. Subsequently, the lease receivable is reduced by the principal portion of lease payments received. The deferred inflow of resources is initially measured as the initial amount of the lease receivable, adjusted for lease payments received at or before the lease commencement date. Subsequently, the deferred inflow of resources is recognized as revenue over the life of the lease term.

Accrued Liabilities and Long-term Obligations

All payables, accrued liabilities and long-term obligations are reported in the government-wide financial statements and all payables, accrued liabilities and long-term obligations payable from proprietary funds are reported on the proprietary fund financial statements.

In general, governmental fund payables and accrued liabilities that, once incurred, are paid in a timely manner and in full from current financial resources, are reported as obligations of the funds. However, claims and compensated absences that will be paid from governmental funds are reported as a liability in the fund financial statements only to the extent that they are due for payment during the current fiscal year. Net pension/OPEB liability should be recognized in the governmental funds to the extent that benefit payments are due and payable and the pension/OPEB plan's fiduciary net position is not sufficient for payment of those benefits. Leases are recognized as a liability on the fund financial statements when due.

Net Position

Net position represents the difference between all other elements in a statement of financial position. Net investment in capital assets consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, reduced by the outstanding balances of any borrowing used for the acquisition, construction or improvement of those assets. Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on its use through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors or laws or regulations of other governments. Restricted net position for OPEB plans represent the corresponding restricted asset amounts held in trust by OPEB plans for future benefits.

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

Fund Balance

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

Nonspendable The nonspendable fund balance category includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are not in spendable form or are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. The "not in spendable form" criterion includes items that are not expected to be converted to cash.

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

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Committed The committed fund balance classification includes amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes imposed by the highest level formal action (resolution) of the Service Center Governing Board. Those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the Service Center Governing Board removes or changes the specified use by taking the same type of action (resolution) it employed to previously commit those amounts. Committed fund balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed for use in satisfying those contractual requirements. State statute authorizes the Treasurer to assign fund balance for purchases on order provided such amounts have been lawfully appropriated.

Assigned Amounts in the assigned fund balance classification are intended to be used by the Service Center for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed. In governmental funds other than the general fund, assigned fund balance includes the remaining amount that is not restricted or committed. These assigned balances are established by the Service Center Governing Board. In the general fund, assigned amounts represent intended uses established by policies and authorized purchase commitments by the Service Center Governing Board or Service Center official delegated that authority by resolution or by State statute. State statute authorizes the Treasurer to assign fund balance for purchases on order provided such amounts have been lawfully appropriated. The Governing Board assigned fund balance for the positive education programs.

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

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

Operating Revenues and Expenses

Operating revenues are those revenues that are generated directly from the primary activity of the proprietary fund. For the Service Center, these revenues are charges for services for the self-insurance program. Operating expenses are necessary costs incurred to provide the good or service that is the primary activity of the fund.

Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

Note 3 – Change in Accounting Principle

For fiscal year 2024, the Service Center implemented Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 100, *Accounting Changes and Error Corrections*, and related guidance from GASB Implementation Guide No. 2023-1, *Implementation Guidance Update — 2023*. The Service Center also implemented Question 5.1 from GASB Implementation Guide No. 2021-1, *Implementation Guidance Update — 2021*.

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Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

GASB 100 will improve the clarity of the accounting and financial reporting requirements for accounting changes and error corrections, which will result in greater consistency in application in practice. In turn, more understandable, reliable, relevant, consistent, and comparable information will be provided to financial statement users for making decisions or assessing accountability. In addition, the display and note disclosure requirements will result in more consistent, decision-useful, understandable, and comprehensive information for users about accounting changes and error corrections.

Question 5.1 from Implementation Guide 2021-1 addresses the collective significance of applying the capitalization threshold to individual items in a group of assets. The Service Center reviewed its capital asset groupings and determined there were no asset groups where individually the assets were under the capitalization threshold yet were significant collectively.

The implementation of GASB Statement No. 100 and GASB Implementation Guides 2021-1 and 2023-1 did not have any effect on beginning net position/fund balance.

In an effort to promote comparability with other governments, the Service Center updated its calculation of net position restricted for pension and OPEB plans for fiscal year 2024. This change had no impact on beginning net position, but rather reclassified the amounts presented as net position restricted for OPEB plans and unrestricted net position.

Note 4 – Fund Deficits

Fund balances at June 30, 2024, included the following individual fund deficits:

<i>Major Funds:</i>	
Local Grants	\$1,901,929
Miscellaneous Federal Grants	1,461,176
<i>Special Revenue Funds:</i>	
Media Center	169,491
SERRC	95,126
EMIS	9,293
Peer Assistance	154,905
ESSER	442,713
GEER	153,389
Title VI-B	377,536
LEP/Immigrant Title III	46,304
Title I	54,310
Improving Teacher Quality	13,873

These deficits are the result of the recognition of payables in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles as well as short-term interfund loans from the general fund needed for operations until the receipt of grant monies. The general fund provides transfers to cover deficit balances; however, this is done when cash is needed rather than when accruals occur.

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Note 5 - Fund Balances

Fund balance is classified as nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned and/or unassigned based primarily on the extent to which the Service Center is bound to observe constraints imposed upon the use of the resources in the governmental funds. The constraints placed on fund balance for the major governmental funds and all other governmental funds are presented as follows:

Fund Balances	General	Local Grants	Miscellaneous Federal Grants	Other Governmental Funds	Total
<i>Nonspendable</i>					
Prepays	\$178,743	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$178,743
Unclaimed Monies	147,667	0	0	0	147,667
<i>Total Nonspendable</i>	<u>326,410</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>326,410</u>
<i>Restricted for</i>					
Capital Improvements	0	0	0	299	299
Various State Grants	0	0	0	4,355	4,355
<i>Total Restricted</i>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4,654</u>	<u>4,654</u>
<i>Committed to</i>					
Purchases on Order:					
Instructional Services	67,078	0	0	0	67,078
Support Services	978,927	0	0	0	978,927
<i>Total Committed</i>	<u>1,046,005</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,046,005</u>
<i>Assigned to</i>					
Positive Education Programs	9,471,077	0	0	0	9,471,077
Purchases on Order:					
Instructional Services	22,476	0	0	0	22,476
Support Services	206,995	0	0	0	206,995
Extracurricular Activities	163	0	0	0	163
<i>Total Assigned</i>	<u>9,700,711</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>9,700,711</u>
<i>Unassigned (Deficit)</i>	<i>12,604,185</i>	<i>(1,901,929)</i>	<i>(1,461,176)</i>	<i>(1,516,940)</i>	<i>7,724,140</i>
<i>Total Fund Balances (Deficit)</i>	<u><i>\$23,677,311</i></u>	<u><i>(\$1,901,929)</i></u>	<u><i>(\$1,461,176)</i></u>	<u><i>(\$1,512,286)</i></u>	<u><i>\$18,801,920</i></u>

Note 6 – Deposits and Investments

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

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

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

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

Interim monies held by the Service Center can be deposited or invested in the following securities:

1. United States Treasury bills, bonds, notes, or any other obligation or security issued by the United States Treasury, or any other obligation guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States;
2. Bonds, notes, debentures, or any other obligation or security issued by any federal government agency or instrumentality including, but not limited to, the Federal National Mortgage Association, Federal Home Loan Bank, Federal Farm Credit Bank, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, and Government National Mortgage Association. All federal agency securities shall be direct issuances of federal government agencies or instrumentalities;
3. Written repurchase agreements in the securities listed above provided the market value of the securities subject to the repurchase agreement must exceed the principal value of the agreement by at least two percent and be marked to market daily, and the term of the agreement must not exceed thirty days;
4. Bonds and other obligations of the State of Ohio, and with certain limitations including a requirement for maturity within ten years from the date of settlement, bonds and other obligations of political subdivisions of the State of Ohio, if training requirements have been met;
5. Time certificates of deposit or savings or deposit accounts including, but not limited to, passbook accounts;
6. No-load money market mutual funds consisting exclusively of obligations described in division (1) or (2) and repurchase agreements secured by such obligations, provided that investments in securities described in this division are made only through eligible institutions;
7. The State Treasurer's investment pool (STAR Ohio); and
8. Certain bankers' acceptances for a period not to exceed one hundred eighty days) and commercial paper notes (for a period not to exceed two hundred seventy days) in an amount not to exceed 40 percent of the interim monies available for investment at any one time if training requirements have been met. The investment in commercial paper notes of a single issuer shall not exceed in the aggregate five percent of interim moneys available for investment at the time of purchase.

Investments in stripped principal or interest obligations, reverse repurchase agreements, and derivatives are prohibited. The issuance of taxable notes for the purpose of arbitrage, the use of leverage, and short selling are also prohibited.

Investments may only be made through specified dealers and institutions. Payment for investments may be made only upon delivery of the securities representing the investments to the treasurer or, if the securities are not represented by a certificate, upon receipt of confirmation of transfer from the custodian.

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Deposits

Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the Service Center will not be able to recover deposits or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. At June 30, 2024, \$8,354,312 of the Service Center's total bank balance of \$21,177,851 was exposed to custodial credit risk because those deposits were uninsured and uncollateralized. The Service Center's financial institution participates in the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS) and was approved for a reduced collateral floor of 50 percent resulting in the uninsured and uncollateralized balance.

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

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

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

Investments

As of June 30, 2024, the Service Center had the following investments. All investments are in an internal investment pool.

Measurement/Investment	Measurement Amount	Maturity	Standard & Poor's Rating	Percent of Total Investments
Fair Value - Level One Input:				
Mutual Funds	<u>\$1,367,705</u>	Daily	N/A	N/A
Fair Value - Level Two Inputs:				
Negotiable Certificates of Deposits	661,029	Less Than Five Years	N/A	6.39 %
United States Treasury Notes	1,175,493	Less Than Five Years	AA+	11.37
Federal Home Loan Bank Bonds	661,059	Less Than Four Years	AA+	6.39
Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Notes	406,876	Less Than Two Years	AA+	N/A
Federal Farm Credit Bank Bonds	697,156	Less Than Five Years	AA+	6.74
Federal National Mortgage Association Bonds	188,140	Less Than Two Years	AA+	N/A
Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation	213,694	Less Than Three Years	N/A	N/A
United States Treasury Bill	993,310	Less Than One Year	AA+	9.61
United States Treasury Bonds	<u>99,039</u>	Less Than One Year	AA+	N/A
Total Fair Value - Level Two Inputs	<u>5,095,796</u>			
Net Asset Value Per Share:				
STAR Ohio	<u>3,874,219</u>	Average 46.5 Days	AAAm	N/A
<i>Totals</i>	<u>\$10,337,720</u>			

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

The Service Center categorizes its fair value measurements within the fair value hierarchy established by generally accepted accounting principles. The hierarchy is based on the valuation inputs used to measure the fair value of the asset. Level 1 inputs are quoted prices in active markets for identical assets. Level 2 inputs are significant other observable inputs; Level 3 inputs are significant unobservable inputs. The above chart identifies the Service Center's recurring fair value measurements as of June 30, 2024. The Money Market Mutual Fund is measured at fair value and is valued using quoted market prices (Level 1 inputs). The Service Center's remaining investments at fair value are valued using methodologies that incorporate market inputs such as benchmark yields, reported trades, broker/dealer quotes, issuer spreads, two-sided markets, benchmark securities, bids, offers and reference data including market research publications. Market indicators and industry and economic events are also monitored, which could require the need to acquire further market data. (Level 2 inputs).

Interest Rate Risk. The Service Center has no investment policy that addresses the interest rate risk. State statute requires that an investment mature within five years from the date of purchase, unless matched to a specific obligation or debt of the Service Center, and that an investment must be purchased with the expectation that it will be held to maturity.

Credit Risk. Investments of the Service Center carry ratings as indicated in the previous table. The negotiable certificates of deposit are not rated. The Service Center does not have an investment policy that addresses credit risk beyond the requirements in State statutes. Ohio law requires that STAR Ohio maintain the highest rating provided by at least one nationally recognized statistical rating organization. The mutual funds are rated in the highest category at the time of purchase by at least one nationally recognized statistical rating organization.

Concentration of Credit Risk. The Service Center places no limit on the amount it may invest in any one issuer.

Note 7 – Receivables

Receivables at June 30, 2024, consisted of accrued interest, accounts, intergovernmental grants and leases. All receivables, except for leases, are considered collectible in full within one year.

A summary of the principal items of intergovernmental receivables follows:

Governmental Activities	Amounts
Positive Education Program	\$4,964,156
Local Grants	1,604,302
ESSER	419,010
Miscellaneous Federal Grants	389,101
Title VI-B Grant	219,367
Title I Grant	95,380
Peer Assistance Grant	43,064
Title III Grant	29,213
Improving Teacher Quality Grant	9,692
E-Rate	8,806
Preschool Disabilities Grant	3,138
Total Governmental Activities	\$7,785,229
 Custodial Fund	
Ohio Schools Council	\$130,295

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

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

Leases Receivable

The Service Center is reporting leases receivable of \$2,338,744 in the general fund at June 30, 2024. This amount represent the discounted future lease payments. This discount is being amortized using the interest method. For 2024, the Service Center recognized lease revenue of \$473,726 and interest revenue of \$71,806 in the general fund related to lease payments received. These lease revenue amounts exclude short-term leases. A description of the Service Center's leasing arrangements is as follows:

Building Leases – The Service Center has entered into various lease agreements for office space with multiple companies at varying years and terms as follows:

Company	Lease Commencement Date	Years	Lease Ending Date	Payment Method
Connect	2019	9	2028	Monthly
Ameriprise	2015	15	2030	Monthly
OSHA	2013	13	2026	Monthly

A summary of future lease amounts receivable is as follows:

Year	General Fund	
	Principal	Interest
2025	\$494,795	\$59,083
2026	511,263	45,135
2027	612,417	29,748
2028	365,499	13,150
2029	222,925	2,551
2030	131,845	443
Total	<u>\$2,338,744</u>	<u>\$150,110</u>

Note 8 – State Funding

The Service Center, under State law, provides services to local school districts within its territory. Each city, local and exempted village school district that entered into an agreement with the Service Center is considered to be provided services. The cost of the services is determined by formula under State law. The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) apportions the costs for all services among the Service Center's city, local and exempted school districts based on each school's total student count. The Department of Education and Workforce deducts each school district's amount from their State Foundation Program settlements and remits the amount to the Service Center. The Service Center may provide additional services if the majority of local and client school districts agree to the services and the apportionment of the costs to all of the client school districts.

The Service Center received funding from the DEW a funding model which is based on student count. The Department of Education and Workforce also deducts from the State Foundation Program settlement of each of the Service Center's local and client school districts an amount equal to \$6.50 times the school district's total student count and remits this amount to the Service Center.

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The Service Center may contract with city, exempted village, local, joint vocational or cooperative education school districts to provide special education and related services or career-technical education services. The individual boards of education pay the costs for these services directly to the Service Center.

Note 9 – Capital Assets

Capital asset activity for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, was as follows:

	Balance 6/30/23	Additions	Deletions	Balance 6/30/24
Governmental Activities				
<i>Nondepreciable Capital Assets</i>				
Land	\$549,004	\$0	(\$143,375)	\$405,629
Depreciable/Amortizable Capital Assets				
<i>Tangible Assets</i>				
Buildings and Improvements	11,370,084	830,023	(882,658)	11,317,449
Furniture and Fixtures	1,919,520	374,999	(66,087)	2,228,432
<i>Total Tangible Assets</i>	13,289,604	1,205,022	(948,745)	13,545,881
<i>Intangible Right to Use Lease Assets</i>				
Intangible Right to Use - Equipment	276,450	0	0	276,450
<i>Total Depreciable/Amortizable Capital Assets</i>	13,566,054	1,205,022	(948,745)	13,822,331
Less Accumulated Depreciation/Amortization				
<i>Depreciation</i>				
Buildings and Improvements	(2,889,936)	(238,099)	882,658	(2,245,377)
Furniture and Fixtures	(1,112,784)	(379,447)	61,302	(1,430,929)
<i>Total Depreciation</i>	(4,002,720)	(617,546)	943,960	(3,676,306)
<i>Amortization - Lease Assets</i>				
Intangible Right to Use - Equipment	(101,365)	(55,290)	0	(156,655)
<i>Total Accumulated Depreciation/Amortization</i>	(4,104,085)	(672,836) *	943,960	(3,832,961)
<i>Total Depreciable/Amortizable Capital Assets, Net</i>	9,461,969	532,186	(4,785)	9,989,370
<i>Governmental Activities Capital Assets, Net</i>	<u>\$10,010,973</u>	<u>\$532,186</u>	<u>(\$148,160)</u>	<u>\$10,394,999</u>

*Depreciation/amortization expense was charged to governmental functions as follows:

	Depreciation	Amortization	Total
Instruction:			
Special	\$1,917	\$0	\$1,917
Support Services:			
Pupil	5,917	0	5,917
Instructional Staff	335,841	0	335,841
Administration	37,325	55,290	92,615
Fiscal	9,233	0	9,233
Business	38	0	38
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	170,782	0	170,782
Central	13,074	0	13,074
Operation of Non-Instructional Services	43,120	0	43,120
Extracurricular Activities	299	0	299
<i>Total Depreciation/Amortization Expense</i>	<u>\$617,546</u>	<u>\$55,290</u>	<u>\$672,836</u>

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

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

Note 10 – Interfund Balances

Interfund balances at June 30, 2024, consist of the following individual fund receivables and payables:

Interfund Payable	Interfund Receivable
	General
<i>Governmental Activities</i>	
Major Funds:	
Local Grants	\$370,000
Miscellaneous Federal Grants	1,500,000
Other Governmental Funds:	
Media Center	220,000
SERRC	83,465
EMIS	20,000
Peer Assistance	190,000
ESSER	610,000
GEER	160,000
Title VI-B	455,000
LEP/Immigrant Title III	230,000
Title I	480,000
Preschool Disabilities	5,000
Improving Teacher Quality	20,000
<i>Total Governmental Funds</i>	<u><u>\$4,343,465</u></u>
<i>Due from Custodial Funds</i>	<u><u>\$130,295</u></u>

The interfund payables are advances for grant monies that were not received by fiscal year end. The Service Center expects to receive the grant monies and repay the loans within the next fiscal year. The due from custodial funds is to cover insufficient funds in the custodial funds.

Note 11 – Other Employee Benefits

Compensated Absences

The criteria for determining vacation, personal and sick leave benefits are derived from negotiated agreements and State laws. Classified employees earn up to twenty days of vacation per fiscal year, depending upon length of service. Vacation is paid upon separation. All employees earn sick leave at a rate of one and one-fourth days per month. Sick leave may be accumulated up to a maximum of 240 days for all employees.

Upon retirement, classified employees who have at least ten years of service credit with the State (the last ten years with the Service Center) are paid one-fourth of their accumulated sick days up to a maximum accumulation of 120 days. Certified employees, administrators and supervisors who have at least ten years of service credit with the State (the last five years with the Service Center), are paid one-fourth of their accumulated sick days up to a maximum accumulation of 120 days.

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Life Insurance

The Service Center provides life insurance and accidental death and dismemberment insurance to all employees who work over 20 hours in a week through the Met Life Insurance Company for in county employees and Guardian for out of county employees.

Other Employer Health Benefits

The Service Center provides medical and prescription drug coverage through Medical Mutual and Skyway Insurance to all in county eligible employees. Vision insurance for in county employees is provided through Anthem Blue View Vision, and dental insurance is provided through MetLife. The Service Center provides prescription drug coverage and vision through Medical Mutual to all out of county eligible employees. Dental insurance for out of county employees is provided through Delta Dental.

Note 12 – Risk Management

Property and Liability

The Service Center is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees and natural disasters. During fiscal year 2024, the Service Center contracted with the American Family Home Insurance Company for the following insurance:

Type	Amount
General Liability:	
Bodily Injury (Aggregate Limit)	\$1,000,000
Personal Injury/Advertising Liability	1,000,000
Products/Completed Operations	3,000,000
General Annual Aggregate	3,000,000
Damage to Premises Rent to You	1,000,000
Sexual Misconduct & Molestation Liability	1,000,000
Medical Expense Limit	10,000
Property:	
Blanket Building and Contents	17,322,441
Educators' Legal Liability:	
Errors or Omissions Coverage Aggregate	3,000,000
Automobile Liability:	
Bodily Injury and Property Damage	1,000,000

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

Workers' Compensation

The Service Center pays a premium based on a rate per \$100 of salaries. This rate is calculated based on accident history and administrative costs. The firm of Sedgewick provides administrative, cost control and actuarial services to the Service Center.

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Employee Health Benefits

The Service Center is self-insured for medical insurance for in county employees. Medical Mutual, the third party administrator of the program, processes the claims for the Service Center's medical program. Monthly funding rates for medical insurance are \$2,809.31 for family coverage and \$949.10 for single coverage. The Service Center has stop loss coverage per family per year and a calculated aggregate maximum stop loss coverage for the 2024 plan year (July through June) that begins at 125 percent of expected claims.

The claims liability of \$714,466 reported in the self insurance fund at June 30, 2024 for employee medical coverage was estimated by an independent health actuary and is based on the requirements of Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 30 which requires that a liability for unpaid claims costs, including estimates of costs relating to incurred but not reported claims, be reported. The estimate was not affected by incremental claim adjustment expenses and does not include other allocated or unallocated claim adjustment expenses.

Changes in claims activity for fiscal years 2023 and 2024 are as follows:

	<u>Balance at Beginning of Year</u>	<u>Current Year Claims</u>	<u>Claim Payments</u>	<u>Balance at End of Year</u>
2023	\$863,860	\$12,045,396	\$12,177,478	\$731,778
2024	731,778	11,831,532	11,848,844	714,466

The Service Center has joined the Portage Area School Consortium for health insurance for out of county employees. The Portage Area School Consortium was established in 1981 so that educational-service providers could manage risk exposures and purchase necessary insurance coverages as a group. The consortium has organized into two distinct entities to facilitate its risk management operations; the two entities are the Property and Casualty Insurance Pool and the Health and Welfare Pool. The Service Center participates in the Health and Welfare Pool. The Health and Welfare Pool is to facilitate the management of risk associated with providing employee benefits, coverages such as health and accident insurance, disability insurance and life insurance. The Health and Welfare Pool, retains a third-party administrator. The Service Center pays all insurance premiums directly to the consortium. Although the Service Center does not participate in the day-to-day management of the consortium, one administrator serves as a trustee of the consortium's governing board as provided in the consortium's enabling authority. The Service Center recognizes that it retains a contingent liability to provide insurance coverage should the assets of the consortium become depleted, it is the opinion of management that the assets of the consortium are sufficient to meet its claims.

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

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

Note 13 – Long-Term Obligations

The changes in the Service Center's long-term obligations during fiscal year 2024 were as follows:

	Outstanding June 30, 2023	Additions	Deductions	Outstanding June 30, 2024	Due Within One Year
<i>Governmental Activities</i>					
Other Long-term Obligations:					
Leases Payable	\$190,471	\$0	\$54,455	\$136,016	\$56,716
Compensated Absences	1,636,314	1,384,313	1,308,525	1,712,102	1,590,913
<i>Total Other Long-term Obligations</i>	<i>1,826,785</i>	<i>1,384,313</i>	<i>1,362,980</i>	<i>1,848,118</i>	<i>1,647,629</i>
Net Pension Liability					
SERS	29,940,259	1,114,543	0	31,054,802	0
STRS	69,959,904	4,477,792	0	74,437,696	0
<i>Total Net Pension Liability</i>	<i>99,900,163</i>	<i>5,592,335</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>105,492,498</i>	<i>0</i>
Net OPEB Liability					
SERS	7,509,443	1,210,432	0	8,719,875	0
<i>Total Governmental Activities</i>	<i>\$109,236,391</i>	<i>\$8,187,080</i>	<i>\$1,362,980</i>	<i>\$116,060,491</i>	<i>\$1,647,629</i>

The lease will be paid from the general fund. Compensated absences will be paid from the general fund, and the local grants, peer assistance, ESSER, title VI-B, title I, preschool disabilities, improving teacher quality, and miscellaneous federal grants special revenue funds. There is no repayment schedule for the net pension liability and net OPEB liability. However, employer pension and OPEB contributions are made from the following funds: general, local grants, peer assistance, ESSER, title VI-B, title I, preschool disabilities, improving teacher quality and miscellaneous federal grants. For additional information related to the net pension and net OPEB liabilities see Notes 17 and 18.

The Service Center has an outstanding agreement to lease copiers. The future lease payments were discounted based on the interest rate implicit in the lease or using the Service Center's incremental borrowing rate. This discount is being amortized using the interest method over the life of the lease. A summary of the principal and interest amounts for the remaining leases is as follows:

Year	Principal	Interest
2025	\$56,716	\$4,490
2026	59,070	2,136
2027	20,230	172
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$136,016</i>	<i>\$6,798</i>

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Note 14 – Jointly Governed Organizations

Connect

Connect is a jointly governed organization among sixteen school districts in Cuyahoga County and the Service Center. The jointly governed organization was formed for the purpose of applying modern technology with the aid of computers and other electronic equipment to administrative and instructional functions among member districts. Each of the districts supports Connect based on a per pupil charge. The Service Center contributed \$262,956 to Connect during the fiscal year 2024.

The Governing Board consists of superintendents of the Educational Service Centers of Northeast Ohio, Lorain County, and Medina County as well as the superintendent of the Ohio Schools Council. The degree of control exercised by any participating school district is limited to its representation of the Governing Board. The Board exercises total control over the operation of the organization including budgeting, appropriating, contracting and designating management. To obtain a copy of Connect's financial statements, write to the Service Center at 6393 Oak Tree Boulevard., Independence, Ohio 44131.

Positive Education Program (PEP)

The PEP is a non-profit organization which selects its own board, adopts its own budget and receives direct Federal and State grants for its operation. The jointly governed organization was formed for the purpose of initiating, expanding and improving special education programs and services for children with disabilities and their parents. The Service Center contributed \$10,000 to the PEP in fiscal year 2024. PEP's twelve member governing board consists of: three superintendents elected from the participating school districts, three attorneys, one representative of the business community, one representative of the education community, and four consumers. The degree of control exercised by any participating school district is limited to its representation on the Board. To obtain a copy of the PEP's financial statements, write to the Positive Education Program at 3100 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2508.

Portage Area School Consortium

Portage Area School Consortium is an insurance group-purchasing consortium made up of 27 participating members. All members pay an insurance premium directly to the consortium. The Service Center paid \$2,866,680 in the form of health care and life insurance premiums to the consortium during the fiscal year 2024. To obtain a copy of the consortium's financial statements, write to Todd Carpenter, Treasurer, Field Local School District, 1464 Industry Road, Atwater, Ohio 44201.

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Note 15 - Encumbrances

Encumbrances are commitments related to unperformed contracts for goods or services. Encumbrance accounting is utilized to the extent necessary to assure effective budgetary control and accountability and to facilitate effective cash planning and control. At fiscal year end the amount of encumbrances expected to be honored upon performance by the vendor in the next fiscal year were as follows:

Governmental Funds:

General	\$1,423,253
Local Grants	905,654
Miscellaneous Federal Grants	68,589
Other Governmental Funds	<u>849,287</u>
Total Governmental	<u><u>\$3,246,783</u></u>

Proprietary Fund:

Internal Service Fund	<u><u>\$53,506</u></u>
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Note 16 – Contingencies

Grants

The Service Center received financial assistance from federal and State agencies in the form of grants. The expenditure of funds received under these programs generally requires compliance with terms and conditions specified in the grant agreements and is subject to audit by the grantor agencies. Any disallowed claims resulting from such audits could become a liability of the general fund or other applicable funds. However, the effect of any such disallowed claims on the overall financial position of the Service Center at June 30, 2024, if applicable, cannot be determined at this time.

Litigation

The Service Center is a party to legal proceedings. The amount of the liability, if any, cannot be reasonably estimated at this time. However, in the opinion of management, any such claims and lawsuits will not have a material adverse effect on the overall financial position of the Service Center at June 30, 2024.

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Note 17 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans

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

Net Pension Liability/Net OPEB Liability (Asset)

The net pension liability and the net OPEB liability (asset) reported on the statement of net position represent liabilities to employees for pensions and OPEB, respectively. Pensions/OPEB are a component of exchange transactions – between an employer and its employees – of salaries and benefits for employee services. Pensions/OPEB are provided to an employee – on a deferred-payment basis – as part of the total compensation package offered by an employer for employee services each financial period. The obligation to sacrifice resources for pensions is a present obligation because it was created as a result of employment exchanges that already have occurred.

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

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

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

The proportionate share of each plan’s unfunded benefits is presented as a *net OPEB asset* or long-term *net pension/OPEB liability* on the accrual basis of accounting. Any liability for the contractually required pension/OPEB contribution outstanding at the end of the year is included in *intergovernmental payable* on both the accrual and modified accrual bases of accounting. The remainder of this note includes the required pension disclosures. See Note 18 for the required OPEB disclosures.

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

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

School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

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

Age and service requirements for retirement are as follows:

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

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

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

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

Funding Policy – Plan members are required to contribute 10 percent of their annual covered salary and the Service Center is required to contribute 14 percent of annual covered payroll. The contribution requirements of plan members and employers are established and may be amended by the SERS' Retirement Board up to statutory maximum amounts of 10 percent for plan members and 14 percent for employers. The Retirement Board, acting with the advice of the actuary, allocates the employer contribution rate among four of the System's funds (Pension Trust Fund, Death Benefit Fund, Medicare B Fund, and Health Care Fund). For the fiscal year ended June 30, 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 Service Center's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$3,087,070 for fiscal year 2024. Of this amount, \$165,698 is reported as an intergovernmental payable.

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

Plan Description – Service Center 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 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 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.

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 fifty and after termination of employment.

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

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 Service Center's contractually required contribution to STRS was \$6,437,648 for fiscal year 2024. Of this amount \$316,994 is reported as an intergovernmental payable.

Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred 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 actuarial valuation as of that date. The Service Center's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the Service Center's share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the contributions of all participating entities. Following is information related to the proportionate share and pension expense:

	SERS	STRS	Total
Proportion of the Net Pension Liability:			
Current Measurement Date	0.56202548%	0.34566014%	
Prior Measurement Date	0.55354947%	0.31470763%	
Change in Proportionate Share	0.00847601%	0.03095251%	
Proportionate Share of the Net			
Pension Liability	\$31,054,802	\$74,437,696	\$105,492,498
Pension Expense	\$2,468,103	\$7,556,976	\$10,025,079

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

At June 30, 2024, the Service Center 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	\$1,334,805	\$2,713,842	\$4,048,647
Changes of assumptions	219,979	6,130,347	6,350,326
Changes in proportionate share and difference between Service Center contributions and proportionate share of contributions	310,304	8,482,094	8,792,398
Service Center contributions subsequent to the measurement date	<u>3,087,070</u>	<u>6,437,648</u>	<u>9,524,718</u>
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u><u>\$4,952,158</u></u>	<u><u>\$23,763,931</u></u>	<u><u>\$28,716,089</u></u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources			
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$0	\$165,180	\$165,180
Changes of assumptions	0	4,614,389	4,614,389
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	436,501	223,092	659,593
Changes in proportionate share and difference between Service Center contributions and proportionate share of contributions	<u>563,587</u>	<u>2,218,226</u>	<u>2,781,813</u>
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u><u>\$1,000,088</u></u>	<u><u>\$7,220,887</u></u>	<u><u>\$8,220,975</u></u>

\$9,524,718 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pension resulting from Service Center 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	(\$201,766)	\$699,897	\$498,131
2026	(1,051,108)	31,377	(1,019,731)
2027	2,094,739	8,583,509	10,678,248
2028	<u>23,135</u>	<u>790,613</u>	<u>813,748</u>
Total	<u><u>\$865,000</u></u>	<u><u>\$10,105,396</u></u>	<u><u>\$10,970,396</u></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 potential modifications, as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future.

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

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, are presented as follows:

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

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

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

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

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

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 determination did not use a municipal bond rate. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that employers would contribute the actuarially determined contribution rate of projected compensation over the remaining 21-year amortization period of the unfunded actuarial accrued liability. The actuarially determined contribution rate for fiscal year 2023 was 14 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 Service Center's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate Net pension liability is sensitive to changes in the discount rate, and to illustrate the potential impact the following table presents the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 7.00 percent, as well as what each plan's net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.00 percent), or one percentage point higher (8.00 percent) than the current rate.

	1% Decrease (6.00%)	Current Discount Rate (7.00%)	1% Increase (8.00%)
Service Center's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$45,835,302	\$31,054,802	\$18,605,047

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Actuarial Assumptions – STRS

Key methods and assumptions used in the June 30, 2023, actuarial valuation are presented as follows:

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)	0.0 percent, effective July 1, 2017

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

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

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

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

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

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

	1% Decrease (6.00%)	Current Discount Rate (7.00%)	1% Increase (8.00%)
Service Center's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$114,468,701	\$74,437,696	\$40,582,420

Note 18 – Defined Benefit OPEB Plans

See Note 17 for a description of the net OPEB liability

School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

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

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.

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

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

Funding Policy – State statute permits SERS to fund the health care benefits through employer contributions. Each year, after the allocation for statutorily required pensions and benefits, the Retirement Board may allocate the remainder of the employer contribution of 14 percent of covered payroll to the Health Care Fund in accordance with the funding policy. For 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 percent of that employer's SERS-covered payroll; nor may SERS collect in aggregate more than 1.5 percent of the total statewide SERS-covered payroll for the health care surcharge. For fiscal year 2024, the Service Center's surcharge obligation was \$236,335.

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 Service Center's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$236,335 for fiscal year 2024, which is reported as an intergovernmental payable.

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. All benefit recipients pay a portion of the health care costs in the form of a monthly premium. Under Ohio law, funding for post-employment health care may be deducted from employer contributions, currently 14 percent of covered payroll. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, STRS did not allocate any employer contributions to post-employment health care.

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

OPEB Liability (Asset), OPEB Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred 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 independent actuarial valuation as of that date. The Service Center's proportion of the net OPEB liability (asset) was based on the Service Center's share of contributions to the respective retirement systems relative to the contributions of all participating entities. Following is information related to the proportionate share and OPEB expense:

	SERS	STRS	Total
Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability/Asset:			
Current Measurement Date	0.52929664%	0.34566014%	
Prior Measurement Date	<u>0.53485656%</u>	<u>0.31470763%</u>	
Change in Proportionate Share	<u>-0.00555992%</u>	<u>0.03095251%</u>	
Proportionate Share of the:			
Net OPEB Liability	\$8,719,875	\$0	\$8,719,875
Net OPEB (Asset)	\$0	(\$6,722,613)	(\$6,722,613)
OPEB Expense	(\$1,229,035)	(\$360,731)	(\$1,589,766)

At June 30, 2024, the Service Center 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	\$18,166	\$10,480	\$28,646
Changes of assumptions	2,948,445	990,341	3,938,786
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on OPEB plan investments	67,582	12,001	79,583
Changes in proportionate Share and difference between Service Center contributions and proportionate share of contributions	0	18,477	18,477
Service Center contributions subsequent to the measurement date	<u>236,335</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>236,335</u>
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>\$3,270,528</u>	<u>\$1,031,299</u>	<u>\$4,301,827</u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources			
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$4,497,161	\$1,025,363	\$5,522,524
Changes of assumptions	2,476,527	4,435,479	6,912,006
Changes in Proportionate Share and difference between Service Center contributions and proportionate share of contributions	2,039,259	200,326	2,239,585
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>\$9,012,947</u>	<u>\$5,661,168</u>	<u>\$14,674,115</u>

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

\$236,335 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB resulting from Service Center contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net OPEB liability or an increase to the net OPEB 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	(\$1,982,078)	(\$1,985,816)	(\$3,967,894)
2026	(1,607,325)	(938,899)	(2,546,224)
2027	(954,356)	(378,555)	(1,332,911)
2028	(613,621)	(495,439)	(1,109,060)
2029	(453,436)	(455,082)	(908,518)
Thereafter	<u>(367,938)</u>	<u>(376,078)</u>	<u>(744,016)</u>
Total	<u>(\$5,978,754)</u>	<u>(\$4,629,869)</u>	<u>(\$10,608,623)</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.

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.

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

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

<u>June 30, 2023</u>	
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	
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 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 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.

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

The SERS health care plan follows the same asset allocation and long-term expected real rate of return for each major asset class as the pension plan, see Note 17.

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 System at the contribution rate of 1.50 percent of projected covered payroll each year, which includes a 1.50 percent payroll surcharge and no contributions from the basic benefits plan. Based on these assumptions, the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position was projected to 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 was 3.86 percent at June 30, 2023, and 3.69 percent at June 30, 2022.

Sensitivity of the Service Center's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate and Changes in the Health Care Cost Trend Rates The net OPEB liability is sensitive to changes in the discount rate and the health care cost trend rate. The following table presents the net OPEB liability of SERS, what SERS' net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1 percentage point lower (3.27%) and higher (5.27%) than the current discount rate (4.27%). Also shown is what SERS' net OPEB liability would be based on health care cost trend rates that are 1 percentage point lower (5.75% decreasing to 3.40%) and higher (7.75% decreasing to 5.40%) than the current rate.

	Current		
	1% Decrease (3.27%)	Discount Rate (4.27%)	1% Increase (5.27%)
Service Center's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$11,146,491	\$8,719,875	\$6,806,384
	Current		
	1% Decrease (5.75% decreasing to 3.40%)	Trend Rate (6.75% decreasing to 4.40%)	1% Increase (7.75% decreasing to 5.40%)
Service Center's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$6,406,189	\$8,719,875	\$11,785,816

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Actuarial Assumptions – STRS

Key methods and assumptions used in the June 30, 2023, actuarial valuation compared to the prior year are presented as follows:

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

The STRS health care plan follows the same asset allocation and long-term expected real rate of return for each major asset class as the pension plan, see Note 17.

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.

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Sensitivity of the Service Center's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Asset to Changes in the Discount and Health Care Cost Trend Rate The following table represents the net OPEB asset as of June 30, 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.

	<u>1% Decrease (6.00%)</u>	<u>Current Discount Rate (7.00%)</u>	<u>1% Increase (8.00%)</u>
Service Center's proportionate share of the net OPEB (asset)	(\$5,689,811)	(\$6,722,613)	(\$7,622,072)
	<u>1% Decrease</u>	<u>Current Trend Rate</u>	<u>1% Increase</u>
Service Center's proportionate share of the net OPEB (asset)	(\$7,663,811)	(\$6,722,613)	(\$5,588,955)

Note 19 – COVID-19

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ohio's state of emergency ended in June 2021 while the national state of emergency ended in April 2023. During fiscal year 2024, the Service Center received COVID-19 funding. The Service Center will continue to spend available COVID-19 funding consistent with the applicable program guidelines.

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Required Supplementary Information

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio
Required Supplementary Information
Schedule of the Service Center's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability
School Employees Retirement System of Ohio
Last Ten Fiscal Years

	2024	2023	2022	2021
Service Center's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	0.56202548%	0.55354947%	0.58411224%	0.58404227%
Service Center's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$31,054,802	\$29,940,259	\$21,552,047	\$38,629,785
Service Center's Covered Payroll	\$22,073,529	\$20,648,414	\$20,350,021	\$20,661,193
Service Center's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	140.69%	145.00%	105.91%	186.97%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	76.06%	75.82%	82.86%	68.55%

*Amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the Service Center's measurement date which is the prior fiscal year end.

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
0.58759500%	0.64881919%	0.66195062%	0.66099505%	0.58971480%	0.59607500%
\$35,156,838	\$37,159,073	\$39,550,086	\$48,378,737	\$33,649,701	\$30,167,099
\$19,903,785	\$20,457,600	\$21,238,157	\$20,783,264	\$17,974,831	\$17,325,057
176.63%	181.64%	186.22%	232.78%	187.20%	174.12%
70.85%	71.36%	69.50%	62.98%	69.16%	71.70%

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio
Required Supplementary Information
Schedule of the Service Center's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability
School Employees Retirement System of Ohio
Last Eight Fiscal Years (1)

	2024	2023	2022	2021
Service Center's Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability	0.52929664%	0.53485656%	0.54874757%	0.54980078%
Service Center's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	\$8,719,875	\$7,509,443	\$10,385,499	\$11,948,970
Service Center's Covered Payroll	\$22,073,529	\$20,648,414	\$20,350,021	\$20,661,193
Service Center's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	39.50%	36.37%	51.03%	57.83%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total OPEB Liability	30.02%	30.34%	24.08%	18.17%

(1) Information prior to 2017 is not available.

*Amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the Service Center's measurement date which is the prior fiscal year end.

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information

2020	2019	2018	2017
0.55576274%	0.61715471%	0.62233181%	0.62402525%
\$13,976,267	\$17,121,538	\$16,701,751	\$17,787,028
\$19,903,785	\$20,457,600	\$21,238,157	\$20,783,264
70.22%	83.69%	78.64%	85.58%
15.57%	13.57%	12.46%	11.49%

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio
Required Supplementary Information
Schedule of the Service Center's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability
State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio
Last Ten Fiscal Years

	2024	2023	2022	2021
Service Center's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	0.34566014%	0.31470763%	0.27577650%	0.28674815%
Service Center's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$74,437,696	\$69,959,904	\$35,260,503	\$69,382,850
Service Center's Covered Payroll	\$45,839,529	\$41,165,036	\$34,054,486	\$34,692,679
Service Center's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	162.39%	169.95%	103.54%	199.99%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	80.00%	78.90%	87.80%	75.50%

*Amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the Service Center's measurement date which is the prior fiscal year end.

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
0.31474107%	0.31451423%	0.31147660%	0.31112990%	0.26715863%	0.23536772%
\$69,603,096	\$69,154,617	\$73,991,935	\$104,144,556	\$73,834,832	\$57,249,575
\$36,763,971	\$35,827,814	\$34,363,893	\$33,105,550	\$27,969,093	\$23,804,507
189.32%	193.02%	215.32%	314.58%	263.99%	240.50%
77.40%	77.30%	75.30%	66.80%	72.10%	74.70%

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio
Required Supplementary Information
Schedule of the Service Center's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset)
State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio
Last Eight Fiscal Years (1)

	2024	2023	2022	2021
Service Center's Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability/Asset	0.34566014%	0.31470763%	0.27577650%	0.28674815%
Service Center's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset)	(\$6,722,613)	(\$8,148,829)	(\$5,814,521)	(\$5,039,594)
Service Center's Covered Payroll	\$45,839,529	\$41,165,036	\$34,054,486	\$34,692,679
Service Center's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset) as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	-14.67%	-19.80%	-17.07%	-14.53%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total OPEB Liability	168.50%	230.70%	174.70%	182.10%

(1) Information prior to 2017 is not available.

*Amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the Service Center's measurement date which is the prior fiscal year end.

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information

2020	2019	2018	2017
0.31474107%	0.31451423%	0.31147660%	0.31112990%
(\$5,212,868)	(\$5,053,923)	\$12,152,667	\$16,639,308
\$36,763,971	\$35,827,814	\$34,363,893	\$33,105,550
-14.18%	-14.11%	35.36%	50.26%
174.70%	176.00%	47.10%	37.30%

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Required Supplementary Information
Schedule of the Service Center's Contributions
School Employees Retirement System of Ohio
Last Ten Fiscal Years

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Net Pension Liability				
Contractually Required Contribution	\$3,087,070	\$3,090,294	\$2,890,778	\$2,849,003
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	<u>(3,087,070)</u>	<u>(3,090,294)</u>	<u>(2,890,778)</u>	<u>(2,849,003)</u>
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	<u><u>\$0</u></u>	<u><u>\$0</u></u>	<u><u>\$0</u></u>	<u><u>\$0</u></u>
Service Center Covered Payroll (1)	\$22,050,500	\$22,073,529	\$20,648,414	\$20,350,021
Pension Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	<u><u>14.00%</u></u>	<u><u>14.00%</u></u>	<u><u>14.00%</u></u>	<u><u>14.00%</u></u>
Net OPEB Liability				
Contractually Required Contribution (2)	\$236,335	\$178,444	\$193,832	\$107,424
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	<u>(236,335)</u>	<u>(178,444)</u>	<u>(193,832)</u>	<u>(107,424)</u>
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	<u><u>\$0</u></u>	<u><u>\$0</u></u>	<u><u>\$0</u></u>	<u><u>\$0</u></u>
OPEB Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	<u><u>1.07%</u></u>	<u><u>0.81%</u></u>	<u><u>0.94%</u></u>	<u><u>0.53%</u></u>
Total Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll (2)	<u><u>15.07%</u></u>	<u><u>14.81%</u></u>	<u><u>14.94%</u></u>	<u><u>14.53%</u></u>

(1) The Service Center's covered payroll is the same for Pension and OPEB.

(2) Includes Surcharge

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
\$2,892,567	\$2,687,011	\$2,761,776	\$2,973,342	\$2,909,657	\$2,369,083
(2,892,567)	(2,687,011)	(2,761,776)	(2,973,342)	(2,909,657)	(2,369,083)
<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
\$20,661,193	\$19,903,785	\$20,457,600	\$21,238,157	\$20,783,264	\$17,974,831
<u>14.00%</u>	<u>13.50%</u>	<u>13.50%</u>	<u>14.00%</u>	<u>14.00%</u>	<u>13.18%</u>
\$88,890	\$222,482	\$262,057	\$115,321	\$122,855	\$193,219
(88,890)	(222,482)	(262,057)	(115,321)	(122,855)	(193,219)
<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
0.43%	1.12%	1.28%	0.54%	0.59%	1.07%
<u>14.43%</u>	<u>14.62%</u>	<u>14.78%</u>	<u>14.54%</u>	<u>14.59%</u>	<u>14.25%</u>

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio
Required Supplementary Information
Schedule of the Service Center's Contributions
State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio
Last Ten Fiscal Years

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Net Pension Liability				
Contractually Required Contribution	\$6,437,648	\$6,417,534	\$5,763,105	\$4,767,628
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	<u>(6,437,648)</u>	<u>(6,417,534)</u>	<u>(5,763,105)</u>	<u>(4,767,628)</u>
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	<u><u>\$0</u></u>	<u><u>\$0</u></u>	<u><u>\$0</u></u>	<u><u>\$0</u></u>
Service Center Covered Payroll	\$45,983,200	\$45,839,529	\$41,165,036	\$34,054,486
Pension Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	<u><u>14.00%</u></u>	<u><u>14.00%</u></u>	<u><u>14.00%</u></u>	<u><u>14.00%</u></u>
Net OPEB Liability (Asset) (1)				

(1) Although the covered payroll for the net OPEB liability is the same as the net pension liability, there were no OPEB related required contributions for 2015-2024, STRS did not allocate any employer contributions to post employment health care; therefore, there is no required supplementary information to present related to the statutorily established employer contribution requirements for the net OPEB liability.

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
\$4,856,975	\$5,146,956	\$5,015,894	\$4,810,945	\$4,634,777	\$3,915,673
(4,856,975)	(5,146,956)	(5,015,894)	(4,810,945)	(4,634,777)	(3,915,673)
<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
\$34,692,679	\$36,763,971	\$35,827,814	\$34,363,893	\$33,105,550	\$27,969,093
<u>14.00%</u>	<u>14.00%</u>	<u>14.00%</u>	<u>14.00%</u>	<u>14.00%</u>	<u>14.00%</u>

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Notes to Required Supplementary Information

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Net Pension Liability

Changes in Benefit Terms/Assumptions – SERS

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. The COLA was suspended for 2018-2020. Prior to 2018, an assumption of 3 percent was used. For 2021, the cost-of-living adjustment was reduced from 2.5 percent to 2 percent. For 2023 and 2024, the cost-of-living adjustment was increased from 2 percent to 2.5 percent.

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 below:

	<u>Fiscal Year 2022</u>	<u>Fiscal Years 2021-2017</u>	<u>Fiscal Year 2016 and Prior</u>
Wage Inflation	2.4 percent	3.00 percent	3.25 percent
Future Salary Increases, including inflation	3.25 percent to 13.58 percent	3.50 percent to 18.20 percent	4.00 percent to 22.00 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.0 percent net of system expenses	7.50 percent net of investments expense, including inflation	7.75 percent net of investments expense, including inflation

Beginning in 2022, amounts reported use mortality rates based on the PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weight Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 94.20 percent for males and set forward 2 years and adjusted 81.35 percent for females. Mortality among disabled members were based upon the PUB-2010 General Disabled Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 5 years and adjusted 103.3 percent for males and set forward 3 years and adjusted 106.8 percent for females. Future improvement in mortality rates is reflected by applying the MP-2020 projection scale generationally.

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 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 below:

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Notes to Required Supplementary Information

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	<u>Fiscal Year 2022</u>	<u>Fiscal Years 2021-2018</u>	<u>Fiscal Year 2017 and Prior</u>
Inflation	2.50 percent	2.50 percent	2.75 percent
Projected salary increases	Varies by Service from 2.5 percent to 8.5 percent	12.50 percent at age 20 to 2.50 percent at age 65	12.25 percent at age 20 to 2.75 percent at age 70
Investment Rate of Return	See Below	See Below	See Below
Payroll Increases	3 percent	3 percent	3.5 percent
Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA)	0.0 percent, effective July 1, 2017	0.0 percent, effective July 1, 2017	2 percent simple applied as follows: for members retiring before August 1, 2013, 2 percent per year; for members retiring after August 1, 2013, or later, COLA commences on fifth anniversary of retirement date.

Investment rate of return:

Fiscal Years 2022 through 2024	7.00 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation
Fiscal Years 2018 through 2021	7.45 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation
Fiscal Year 2017 and prior	7.75 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation

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 Disable 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 RP-2014 Annuitant Mortality Table with 50 percent of rates through age 69, 70 percent of rates between ages 70 and 79, 90 percent of rates between ages 80 and 84, and 100 percent of rates thereafter, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016. 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 Term – STRS

For 2024, demographic assumptions were changed based on the actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2021.

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Notes to Required Supplementary Information

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

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.

Net OPEB Liability (Asset)

Changes in Assumptions – SERS

Beginning with fiscal year 2022, 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:

	2022	2021 and Prior
Inflation	2.40 percent	3.00 percent
Future Salary Increases, including inflation		
Wage Increases	3.25 percent to 13.58 percent	3.50 percent to 18.20 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent net of investment expense, including inflation	7.50 percent net of investment expense, including inflation

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

Municipal Bond Index Rate:

Fiscal year 2024	3.86 percent
Fiscal year 2023	3.69 percent
Fiscal year 2022	1.92 percent
Fiscal year 2021	2.45 percent
Fiscal year 2020	3.13 percent
Fiscal year 2019	3.62 percent
Fiscal year 2018	3.56 percent
Fiscal year 2017	2.92 percent

Single Equivalent Interest Rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation

Fiscal year 2024	4.27 percent
Fiscal year 2023	4.08 percent
Fiscal year 2022	2.27 percent
Fiscal year 2021	2.63 percent
Fiscal year 2020	3.22 percent
Fiscal year 2019	3.70 percent
Fiscal year 2018	3.63 percent
Fiscal year 2017	2.98 percent

Changes in Assumptions – STRS

For fiscal year 2018, the discount rate was increased from 3.26 percent to 4.13 percent based on the methodology defined under *GASB Statement No. 74, Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans (OPEB)* and the long term expected rate of return was reduced from 7.75 percent to 7.45 percent. Valuation year per capita health care costs were updated, and the salary scale was modified.

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Notes to Required Supplementary Information

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

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.

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

For fiscal year 2023, the projected salary increases were changed from age based to service based. Healthcare trends were updated to reflect emerging claims and recoveries experience.

Changes in Benefit Terms – STRS

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 2020.

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 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 2021, there was no change to the claims costs process. Claim curves were updated to reflect the projected fiscal year ending June 30, 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 2.1 percent for the AMA Medicare plan. The Medicare Part B monthly reimbursement elimination date was postponed indefinitely.

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 CY 2022. The Part B monthly reimbursement elimination date was postponed indefinitely.

For fiscal year 2023, healthcare trends were updated to reflect emerging claims and recoveries experience.

For fiscal year 2024, healthcare trends were updated to reflect emerging claims and recoveries experience as well as benefit changes effective January 1, 2024.

Supplemental Information

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes
In Fund Balance - Budget (Non-GAAP Basis) and Actual
General Fund
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance with Final Budget
	Original	Final	Actual	
Revenues				
Intergovernmental			\$7,350,297	
Interest			476,230	
Tuition and Fees			22,779,329	
Rentals			1,260,481	
Charges for Services			52,085,653	
Miscellaneous			<u>277,547</u>	
<i>Total Revenues</i>			<u>84,229,537</u>	
Expenditures				
Current:				
Instruction:				
Regular	\$25,921,354	\$24,997,846	18,197,461	\$6,800,385
Special	37,534,855	37,643,229	24,678,756	12,964,473
Vocational	0	720,193	720,193	0
Support Services:				
Pupil	14,498,834	13,468,366	13,468,366	0
Instructional Staff	5,271,177	5,980,579	5,980,579	0
Board of Education	65,239	70,018	70,018	0
Administration	10,070,299	14,074,941	14,074,941	0
Fiscal	3,340,475	4,348,945	4,348,945	0
Business	81,000	58,114	58,114	0
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	3,491,511	3,130,930	3,130,930	0
Pupil Transportation	0	28,357	28,357	0
Central	1,038,969	1,042,817	1,042,817	0
Operation of Non-Instructional Services	385,000	0	0	0
Extracurricular Activities	300	108,080	108,080	0
Capital Outlay	530	12,128	12,128	0
Debt Service:				
Principal Retirement	54,455	54,455	54,455	0
Interest and Fiscal Charges	<u>6,751</u>	<u>6,751</u>	<u>6,751</u>	<u>0</u>
<i>Total Expenditures</i>	<u>\$101,760,749</u>	<u>\$105,745,749</u>	<u>85,980,891</u>	<u>\$19,764,858</u>
<i>Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures</i>			<u>(1,751,354)</u>	
Other Financing Sources (Uses)				
Sale of Capital Assets			649,475	
Advances In			5,200,000	
Advances Out			<u>(4,260,000)</u>	
<i>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</i>			<u>1,589,475</u>	
<i>Net Change in Fund Balance</i>			<u>(161,879)</u>	
<i>Fund Balance Beginning of Year</i>			14,793,522	
Prior Year Encumbrances Appropriated			<u>3,290,749</u>	
<i>Fund Balance End of Year</i>			<u>\$17,922,392</u>	

See accompanying notes to the supplemental information

Supplemental Information

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes
In Fund Balance - Budget (Non-GAAP Basis) and Actual
Local Grants Fund
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance with Final Budget
	Original	Final	Actual	
Revenues				
Intergovernmental			\$9,979,738	
Charges for Services			18,806,655	
Contributions and Donations			20,000	
Miscellaneous			<u>2,602,424</u>	
<i>Total Revenues</i>			<u>31,408,817</u>	
Expenditures				
Current:				
Instruction:				
Regular	\$10,182,482	\$10,182,482	18,974,921	(\$8,792,439)
Support Services:				
Pupil	185,506	127,160	127,160	0
Instructional Staff	715,113	715,113	1,147,042	(431,929)
Administration	1,271,729	1,577,140	1,873,924	(296,784)
Fiscal	1,934	1,963	1,963	0
Central	(60,000)	100,571	100,571	0
Operation of Non-Instructional Services	11,479,821	11,033,795	11,033,795	0
Capital Outlay	<u>0</u>	<u>38,361</u>	<u>38,361</u>	<u>0</u>
<i>Total Expenditures</i>	<u><u>\$23,776,585</u></u>	<u><u>\$23,776,585</u></u>	<u><u>33,297,737</u></u>	<u><u>(\$9,521,152)</u></u>
<i>Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures</i>			(1,888,920)	
Other Financing Sources (Uses)				
Advances In			<u>370,000</u>	
<i>Net Change in Fund Balance</i>			(1,518,920)	
<i>Fund Deficit Beginning of Year</i>			(2,215,723)	
Prior Year Encumbrances Appropriated			<u>2,739,240</u>	
<i>Fund Deficit End of Year</i>			<u><u>(\$995,403)</u></u>	

See accompanying notes to the supplemental information

Supplemental Information

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes
In Fund Balance - Budget (Non-GAAP Basis) and Actual
Miscellaneous Federal Grants Fund
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance with Final Budget
	Original	Final	Actual	
Revenues				
Intergovernmental			<u>\$6,091,613</u>	
Expenditures				
Current:				
Support Services:				
Pupil	\$1,843,791	\$1,843,792	1,705,735	\$138,057
Instructional Staff	330,000	330,000	237,757	92,243
Administration	127,342	283,659	283,659	0
Fiscal	17,512	73,478	73,478	0
Central	3,032,915	3,119,283	2,906,407	212,876
Operation of Non-Instructional Services	<u>445,586</u>	<u>1,696,934</u>	<u>1,696,934</u>	<u>0</u>
<i>Total Expenditures</i>	<u><i>\$5,797,146</i></u>	<u><i>\$7,347,146</i></u>	<u><i>6,903,970</i></u>	<u><i>\$443,176</i></u>
<i>Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures</i>			<u><i>(812,357)</i></u>	
Other Financing Sources (Uses)				
Advances In			1,500,000	
Advances Out			<u>(1,880,000)</u>	
<i>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</i>			<u><i>(380,000)</i></u>	
<i>Net Change in Fund Balance</i>			<u><i>(1,192,357)</i></u>	
<i>Fund Balance Beginning of Year</i>			131,510	
Prior Year Encumbrances Appropriated			<u>1,228,174</u>	
<i>Fund Balance End of Year</i>			<u><i>\$167,327</i></u>	

See accompanying notes to the supplemental information

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

*Notes to Supplemental Information
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

Note 1 – Budgetary Basis of Accounting

Budgetary Process

The Service Center is not required under State statute to file budgetary information with the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce. However, the Service Center's Board does follow the budgetary process for control purposes. This is done by adopting an annual appropriation resolution which is the Board's authorization to spend resources. The resolution sets annual limits on expenditures plus encumbrances at the level of control selected by the Board. The level of control has been established by the Board at the fund level for all funds. The Treasurer has been authorized to allocate appropriations to the function and object level within all funds. The amounts reported as the original budgeted amounts reflect the first appropriation for that fund that covered the entire fiscal year, including amounts automatically carried over from prior fiscal years. The amounts reported as the final budgeted amounts represent the final appropriation amounts passed by the Board during the fiscal year.

Budgetary Basis of Accounting

While the Service Center is reporting financial position, results of operations and changes in fund balances on the basis of generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), the budgetary basis is based upon accounting for certain transactions on a basis of cash receipts, disbursements and encumbrances. The schedule of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balance - budget (non-GAAP basis) and actual for the general fund and the major special revenue funds are presented on the budgetary basis to provide a meaningful comparison of actual results with the budget.

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

1. Revenues are recorded when received in cash (budget basis) as opposed to when susceptible to accrual (GAAP basis).
2. Unrecorded cash represents amounts received but not included as revenue on the budget basis operating schedules. These amounts are included as revenue on the GAAP basis operating statement.
3. Investments are reported at cost (budget basis) rather than fair value (GAAP basis).
4. Advances In and Advances Out are operating transactions (budget) as opposed to balance sheet transactions (GAAP).
5. Expenditures are recorded when paid in cash (budget basis) as opposed to when the liability is incurred (GAAP basis).
6. Budgetary revenues and expenditures of the positive education program fund is classified to general fund for GAAP reporting.
7. Encumbrances are treated as expenditures (budget basis) rather than as restricted, committed or assigned fund balance (GAAP basis).

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

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

The following table summarizes the adjustments necessary to reconcile the GAAP basis statement to the budgetary basis schedules for the major funds.

	Net Change in Fund Balance		
			Miscellaneous
	General	Local Grants	Federal Grants
GAAP Basis	(\$721,392)	\$1,093,165	(\$1,461,176)
Net Adjustment for Revenue Accruals	603,861	(1,297,257)	805,322
Beginning Unrecorded Cash	(2,457)	0	0
Beginning Fair Value Adjustment	(245,449)	0	0
Ending Fair Value Adjustment	134,956	0	0
Advances In	5,200,000	370,000	1,500,000
Advances Out	(4,260,000)	0	(1,880,000)
Net Adjustment for Expenditure Accruals	557,908	(779,174)	(87,914)
Perspective Differences:			
Positive Education Program	(6,053)	0	0
Adjustment for Encumbrances	<u>(1,423,253)</u>	<u>(905,654)</u>	<u>(68,589)</u>
Budget Basis	<u><u>(\$161,879)</u></u>	<u><u>(\$1,518,920)</u></u>	<u><u>(\$1,192,357)</u></u>

**EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER OF NORTHEAST OHIO
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

FEDERAL GRANTOR <i>Pass Through Grantor</i> Program / Cluster Title	Federal AL Number	Passed Through to Subrecipients	Expenditures
<u>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE</u>			
<i>Passed Through Ohio Department of Education and Workforce</i>			
<i>Child Nutrition Cluster</i>			
School Breakfast Program	10.553	122,852	122,852
National School Lunch Program	10.555	197,062	197,062
<i>Total Child Nutrition Cluster</i>		<u>319,914</u>	<u>319,914</u>
Total U.S. Department of Agriculture		<u>319,914</u>	<u>319,914</u>
<u>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION</u>			
<i>Passed Through Ohio Department of Education and Workforce</i>			
Title I - Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010	0	169,945
<i>Special Education Cluster (IDEA)</i>			
Special Education Preschool Grants	84.173	0	109,840
Special Education - Grants to States (IDEA, Part B)	84.027	0	2,647,541
<i>Total Special Education Cluster (IDEA)</i>		<u>0</u>	<u>2,757,381</u>
Project Prevent Initiative	84.184M	0	600,459
English Language Acquisition State Grants	84.365	47,856	47,856
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants	84.367	0	83,733
Comprehensive Literacy Program	84.371	0	523,902
Teacher and School Leader Incentive Grants	84.374	0	1,319,028
COVID-19 American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER)	84.425U	0	2,957,236
COVID-19 American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief- Homeless Children and Youth	84.425W	0	23,309
<i>Total COVID-19 Education Stabilization Funds</i>		<u>0</u>	<u>2,980,545</u>
Total U.S. Department of Education		<u>47,856</u>	<u>8,482,849</u>
<u>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES</u>			
Substantive Abuse and Mental Health Service Projects of Regional and National Significance - Year 1A	93.243	0	414,946
Substantive Abuse and Mental Health Service Projects of Regional and National Significance - Year 1B	93.243	0	183,229
<i>Total Substantive Abuse and Mental Health Service Projects of Regional and National Significance</i>		<u>0</u>	<u>598,175</u>
Total U.S. Department of Health and Human Services		<u>0</u>	<u>598,175</u>
Total Expenditures of Federal Awards		<u>\$367,770</u>	<u>\$9,400,938</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

**EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER OF NORTHEAST OHIO
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
2 CFR 200.510(b)(6)
FOR THE 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 the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio (the Service Center) 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 Service Center, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position, changes in net position, or cash flows of the Service Center.

NOTE B – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Expenditures reported on the Schedule are reported on the cash basis of accounting. Such expenditures are recognized following the cost principles contained in Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*, wherein certain types of expenditures may or may not be allowable or may be limited as to reimbursement.

NOTE C – INDIRECT COST RATE

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

NOTE D – SUBRECIPIENTS

The Service Center passes certain federal awards received from U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to other governments or not-for-profit agencies (subrecipients). As Note B describes the Service Center reports expenditures of Federal awards to subrecipients when paid in cash. As a pass-through entity, the Service Center has certain compliance responsibilities, such as monitoring its subrecipients to help assure they use these subawards as authorized by laws, regulations, and the provisions of contracts or grant agreements, and that subrecipients achieve the award's performance goals.

NOTE E – CHILD NUTRITION CLUSTER

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



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

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

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio
Cuyahoga County
6393 Oak Tree Boulevard
Independence, Ohio 44131

To the Board of Education:

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*), the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio, Cuyahoga County, Ohio (the Service Center) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Service Center's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated March 21, 2025.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Service Center's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Service Center's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Service Center's internal control.

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

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

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio
Cuyahoga County
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over
Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters
Required by *Government Auditing Standards*
Page 2

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Service Center's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed 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 Service Center's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Service Center's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

March 21, 2025



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

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

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio
Cuyahoga County
6393 Oak Tree Boulevard
Independence, Ohio 44131

To the Board of Education:

Report on Compliance for the Major Federal Program

Opinion on the Major Federal Program

We have audited the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio's, Cuyahoga County, (the Service Center) compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Compliance Supplement that could have a direct and material effect on the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio's major federal program for the year ended June 30, 2024. The Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio's major federal program is identified in the Summary of Auditor's Results section of the accompanying schedule of findings.

In our opinion, the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on its major federal program for the year ended June 30, 2024.

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

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on the Service Center's compliance based on our audit. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material, if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about the Service Center's compliance with the requirements of the 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 Service Center's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- Obtain an understanding of the Service Center's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Service Center's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

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

Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

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

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio
Cuyahoga County
Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance with Requirements
Applicable to the Major Federal Program and on Internal Control Over
Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance
Page 3

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

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

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



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

March 21, 2025

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EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER OF NORTHEAST OHIO
CUYAHOGA COUNTY

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
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)?	No
(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?	No
(d)(1)(v)	Type of Major Programs' Compliance Opinion	Unmodified
(d)(1)(vi)	Are there any reportable findings under 2 CFR § 200.516(a)?	No
(d)(1)(vii)	Major Programs (list):	AL #84.027 & AL #84.173 – Special Education Cluster
(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

3. FINDINGS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS

None

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER OF NORTHEAST OHIO

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 3/27/2025

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
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