

# **FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO**

**SINGLE AUDIT**

**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED**

**JUNE 30, 2024**





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Columbus, Ohio 43215  
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800-282-0370

Board of Education  
Firelands Local School District  
112 North Lake Street  
South Amherst, Ohio 44001

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of the Firelands Local School District, Lorain County, prepared by Julian & Grube, Inc., for the audit period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. Based upon this review, we have accepted these reports in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code. The Auditor of State did not audit the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, we are unable to express, and do not express an opinion on them.

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

Keith Faber  
Auditor of State  
Columbus, Ohio

**June 11, 2025**

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**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO**

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## **Independent Auditor's Report**

Firelands Local School District  
Lorain County  
112 North Lake Street  
South Amherst, Ohio 44001

To the Members of the Board of Education:

### **Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements**

#### ***Opinions***

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Firelands Local School District, Lorain County, Ohio, as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Firelands Local School District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the 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 Firelands Local School District, as of June 30, 2024, and the respective changes in financial position, thereof and for the fiscal year then ended in accordance with 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 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 Firelands Local School District and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

#### ***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 Firelands Local School District's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards 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 generally accepted auditing standards 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 Firelands Local School District's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Firelands Local School District's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

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

***Required Supplementary Information***

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis, schedules of net pension and other postemployment benefit assets and liabilities and pension and other postemployment benefit contributions, and budgetary comparison information listed in the table of contents be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who 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 Firelands Local School District's basic financial statements. The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards, as required by Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*, is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the schedule of expenditures of federal awards is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

**Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 25, 2025 on our consideration of Firelands Local School District's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of Firelands Local School District's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering Firelands Local School District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Julian & Grube, Inc.  
March 25, 2025

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

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

**Financial Highlights**

Key financial highlights for fiscal year 2024 are as follows:

- In total, net position of governmental activities increased \$780,937, which represents a 5.16% increase from June 30, 2023's net position.
- General revenues accounted for \$22,628,668 in revenue or 83.11% of all revenues. Program specific revenues in the form of charges for services and sales, and operating grants and contributions accounted for \$4,598,124 in revenue or 16.89% of total revenues of \$27,226,792.
- The District had \$26,445,855 in expenses related to governmental activities; only \$4,598,124 of these expenses were offset by program specific charges for services and sales, and operating grants and contributions. General revenues supporting governmental activities (primarily property taxes and unrestricted grants and entitlements) of \$22,628,668 were adequate to provide for these programs.
- The District's only major governmental fund is the general fund. The general fund had \$21,345,630 in revenues and other financing sources and \$22,430,364 in expenditures and other financing uses. During fiscal year 2024, the general fund's fund balance decreased \$1,084,734 from a balance of \$17,592,216 to \$16,507,482.

**Using these Basic Financial Statements**

This annual report consists of a series of financial statements and notes to those statements. These statements are organized so the reader can understand the District 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 District, presenting both an aggregate view of the District's finances and a longer-term view of those finances. Fund financial statements provide the next level of detail. For governmental funds, these statements tell how services were financed in the short-term as well as what remains for future spending. The fund financial statements also look at the District's most significant funds with all other nonmajor funds presented in total in one column. In the case of the District, the general fund is by far the most significant fund, and the only governmental fund reported as a major fund.

**Reporting the District as a Whole**

***Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities***

While this document contains the large number of funds used by the District to provide programs and activities, the view of the District as a whole looks at all financial transactions and asks the question, "How did the District do financially during fiscal year 2024?" The statement of net position and the statement of activities answer this question. These statements include all non-fiduciary assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, revenues and expenses using the accrual basis of accounting similar to the accounting used by most private-sector companies. This basis of accounting will take into account all of the current year's revenues and expenses regardless of when cash is received or paid.

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

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

In the statement of net position and the statement of activities, the governmental activities include the District's programs and services, including instruction, support services, operation and maintenance, pupil transportation, extracurricular activities, and food service operations.

**Reporting the District's Most Significant Funds**

***Fund Financial Statements***

Fund financial reports provide detailed information about the District's major funds. The District uses many funds to account for a multitude of financial transactions. However, these fund financial statements focus on the District's most significant funds. The District's only major governmental fund is the general fund.

***Governmental Funds***

Most of the District's activities are reported in governmental funds, which focus on how money flows into and out of those funds and the balances left at year end available for spending in future periods. These funds are reported using 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 financial statements provide a detailed short-term view of the District'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 basic financial statements.

***Reporting the District's Fiduciary Responsibilities***

The District acts in a trustee capacity as an agent for individuals and/or other governments or organizations. These activities are reported in custodial funds. The District's fiduciary activities are reported in a separate statement of fiduciary net position and statement of changes in fiduciary net position. These activities are excluded from the District's other financial statements because the assets cannot be utilized by the District to finance its operations.

***Notes to the Basic Financial Statements***

The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and fund financial statements.

***Required Supplementary Information***

In addition to the basic financial statements and accompanying notes, this report also presents certain required supplementary information concerning the District's general fund budgetary information, net pension liability and net OPEB liability/asset.

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**The District as a Whole**

The table below provides a summary of the District's net position for June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2023.

	<b>Net Position</b>	
	Governmental Activities 2024	Governmental Activities 2023
<b><u>Assets</u></b>		
Current and other assets	\$42,124,885	\$ 41,205,293
Net OPEB asset	1,285,918	1,709,924
Capital assets, net	31,519,391	31,745,716
Total assets	<u>74,930,194</u>	<u>74,660,933</u>
<b><u>Deferred Outflows of Resources</u></b>		
Pension	3,899,213	4,611,180
OPEB	853,450	484,513
Total deferred outflows of resources	<u>4,752,663</u>	<u>5,095,693</u>
<b><u>Liabilities</u></b>		
Current liabilities	2,858,986	2,922,233
Long-term liabilities:		
Due within one year	677,867	578,119
Due in more than one year:		
Net pension liability	18,648,040	18,929,887
Net OPEB liability	1,354,206	1,132,430
Other amounts	24,003,993	24,454,372
Total liabilities	<u>47,543,092</u>	<u>48,017,041</u>
<b><u>Deferred Inflows of Resources</u></b>		
Property taxes and payment in lieu of taxes levied for next year	12,441,923	11,483,547
Lease	274,389	292,306
Pension	1,293,294	2,050,008
OPEB	2,224,319	2,788,821
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>16,233,925</u>	<u>16,614,682</u>
<b><u>Net Position</u></b>		
Net investment in capital assets	9,265,086	8,550,609
Restricted	3,380,078	3,773,405
Unrestricted	3,260,676	2,800,889
Total net position	<u>\$ 15,905,840</u>	<u>\$ 15,124,903</u>

The net pension liability (NPL) is the largest single liability reported by the District at June 30, 2024 and is reported pursuant to GASB Statement 68, "Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions - an Amendment of GASB Statement 27." The District adopted GASB Statement 75, "Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions," which significantly revises accounting for costs and liabilities related to other postemployment benefits (OPEB). For reasons discussed below, many end users of this financial statement will gain a clearer understanding of the District's actual financial condition by adding deferred inflows related to pension and OPEB, the net pension liability and the net OPEB liability/asset to the reported net position and subtracting deferred outflows related to pension and OPEB.

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

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

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

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

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 District 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.

The employee enters the employment exchange with the knowledge that the employer's promise is limited not by contract but by law. The employer enters the exchange also knowing that there is a specific, legal limit to its contribution to the retirement system. In Ohio, there is no legal means to enforce the unfunded liability of the pension/OPEB plan *as against the public employer*. State law operates to mitigate/lessen the moral obligation of the public employer to the employee, because all parties enter the employment exchange with notice as to the law. The retirement system is responsible for the administration of the pension and OPEB plans.

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

In accordance with GASB 68 and GASB 75, the District's statements prepared on an accrual basis of accounting include an annual pension expense and an annual OPEB expense for their proportionate share of each plan's *change* in net pension liability and net OPEB liability/asset, respectively, not accounted for as deferred inflows/outflows.

At year end, capital assets represented 42.07% of total assets. Capital assets include land, construction in progress, land improvements, buildings and improvements, furniture and equipment, vehicles, and intangible right to use - leased assets. The District's net investment in capital assets at June 30, 2024 was \$9,265,086. These capital assets are used to provide services to the students and are not available for future spending. Although the District's investment in capital assets is reported net of related debt, it should be noted that the resources to repay the debt must be provided from other sources, since capital assets may not be used to liquidate these liabilities.

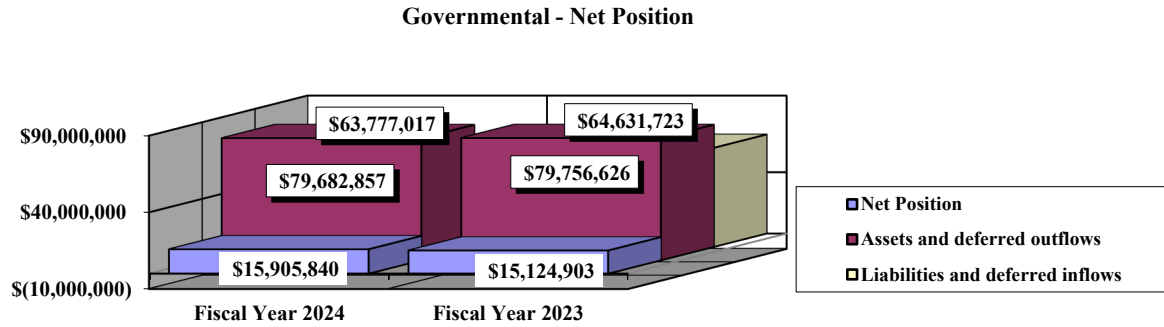
Total assets at fiscal year-end include a net OPEB asset reported by the State Teachers Retirement System (STRS). See Note 13 for more detail.

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

A portion of the District's net position, \$3,380,078, represents resources that are subject to external restriction on how they may be used. The remaining balance of unrestricted net position is \$3,260,676.

The graph below illustrates the District's governmental activities assets plus deferred outflows of resources, liabilities plus deferred inflows of resources and net position at June 30, 2024 and 2023.



The table below shows the change in net position for fiscal years 2024 and 2023.

**Change in Net Position**

	Governmental Activities	
	2024	2023
Program revenues:		
Charges for services and sales	\$ 1,791,301	\$ 1,766,648
Operating grants and contributions	2,759,323	2,407,539
Capital grants and contributions	47,500	191,307
General revenues:		
Property taxes	11,927,771	11,740,314
Payments in lieu of taxes	13,321	13,244
Grants and entitlements	9,428,390	9,344,697
Investment earnings	798,165	534,664
Change in fair value of investments	207,402	(42,941)
Miscellaneous	253,619	79,623
Total revenues	<u>27,226,792</u>	<u>26,035,095</u>

- (Continued)

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**Change in Net Position (Continued)**

	Governmental Activities	
	2024	2023
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>		
Program expenses:		
Instruction:		
Regular	\$ 9,700,355	\$ 8,784,934
Special	4,227,399	3,865,884
Vocational	305,224	378,105
Other	209,320	242,515
Support services:		
Pupil	1,629,813	1,491,503
Instructional staff	161,016	158,374
Board of education	14,560	16,097
Administration	2,040,985	1,955,578
Fiscal	628,707	631,608
Operations and maintenance	2,560,783	2,881,810
Pupil transportation	1,607,543	1,443,700
Central	595,061	797,489
Operation of non-instructional services:		
Other non-instructional services	18,772	54,049
Food service operations	982,710	915,066
Extracurricular activities	974,313	936,016
Interest and fiscal charges	789,294	808,506
Total expenses	<u>26,445,855</u>	<u>25,361,234</u>
Change in net position	780,937	673,861
Net position at beginning of year	<u>15,124,903</u>	<u>14,451,042</u>
Net position at end of year	<u><u>\$ 15,905,840</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 15,124,903</u></u>

**Governmental Activities**

Net position of the District's governmental activities increased \$780,937. Total governmental expenses of \$26,445,855 were offset by program revenues of \$4,598,124 and general revenues of \$22,628,668. Program revenues supported 17.39% of the total governmental expenses.

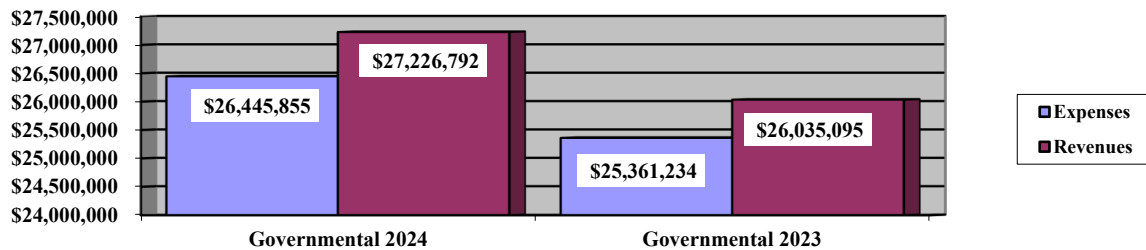
The primary sources of revenue for governmental activities are derived from property taxes and grants and entitlements. These revenue sources represent 78.44% of total governmental revenue. Real estate property is reappraised every six years.

The graph below presents the District's governmental activities revenues and expenses for fiscal years 2024 and 2023.

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**Governmental Activities - Revenues and Expenses**



The statement of activities shows the cost of program services and the charges for services and grants offsetting those services. The following table shows, for governmental activities, the total cost of services and the net cost of services for fiscal years 2024 and 2023. That is, it identifies the cost of these services supported by tax revenues, unrestricted State grants and entitlements, and other general revenues of the District.

**Governmental Activities**

	Total Cost of Services 2024	Net Cost of Services 2024	Total Cost of Services 2023	Net Cost of Services 2023
Program expenses:				
Instruction:				
Regular	\$ 9,700,355	\$ 8,682,425	\$ 8,784,934	\$ 7,686,379
Special	4,227,399	2,999,429	3,865,884	2,864,375
Vocational	305,224	271,881	378,105	352,388
Other	209,320	209,320	242,515	242,515
Support services:				
Pupil	1,629,813	1,278,373	1,491,503	1,161,146
Instructional staff	161,016	161,016	158,374	158,374
Board of education	14,560	14,560	16,097	16,097
Administration	2,040,985	1,949,063	1,955,578	1,861,974
Fiscal	628,707	628,707	631,608	631,608
Operations and maintenance	2,560,783	2,532,408	2,881,810	2,651,020
Pupil transportation	1,607,543	1,414,032	1,443,700	1,379,118
Central	595,061	344,702	797,489	620,977
Operation of non-instructional services:				
Other non-instructional services	18,772	18,771	54,049	(8,573)
Food service operations	982,710	(125,903)	915,066	(86,930)
Extracurricular activities	974,313	679,653	936,016	656,766
Interest and fiscal charges	789,294	789,294	808,506	808,506
Total expenses	<u>\$ 26,445,855</u>	<u>\$ 21,847,731</u>	<u>\$ 25,361,234</u>	<u>\$ 20,995,740</u>

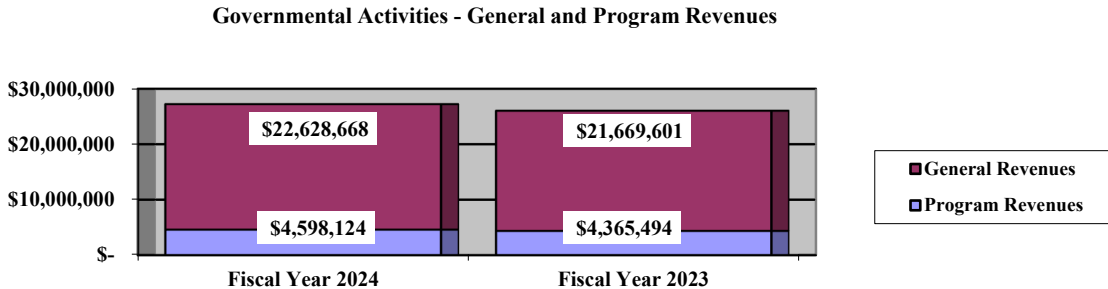
The dependence upon taxes and other general revenues for governmental activities is apparent, as 84.22% of instruction activities are supported through taxes and other general revenues. For all governmental activities, general revenue support is 82.61%. The District's taxpayers and grants and entitlements not restricted to specific programs are by far the primary support for the District's students.



**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

The graph below presents the District's governmental activities revenues for fiscal years 2024 and 2023.



**The District's Funds**

The District's governmental funds reported a combined fund balance of \$21,198,684, which is less than last year's total balance of \$22,257,932.

The table below indicates the fund balance and the total change in fund balance as of June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2023.

	Fund Balance <u>June 30, 2024</u>	Fund Balance <u>June 30, 2023</u>	<u>Change</u>
General fund	\$ 16,507,482	\$ 17,592,216	\$ (1,084,734)
Nonmajor governmental funds	<u>4,691,202</u>	<u>4,665,716</u>	<u>25,486</u>
Total	<u>\$ 21,198,684</u>	<u>\$ 22,257,932</u>	<u>\$ (1,059,248)</u>

**General Fund**

The District's general fund balance decreased \$1,084,734. The tables that follow assist in illustrating the revenues and expenditures of the general fund during fiscal years 2024 and 2023.

	<u>2024 Amount</u>	<u>2023 Amount</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Percentage Change</u>
<b><u>Revenues</u></b>				
Taxes	\$ 8,826,839	\$ 8,957,090	\$ (130,251)	(1.45) %
Tuition and fees	932,633	967,849	(35,216)	(3.64) %
Interest earnings	777,697	524,697	253,000	48.22 %
Change in fair value of investments	207,402	(42,941)	250,343	582.99 %
Extracurricular	131,186	106,893	24,293	22.73 %
Intergovernmental	10,314,733	9,938,702	376,031	3.78 %
Other revenues	<u>155,140</u>	<u>110,821</u>	<u>44,319</u>	<u>39.99 %</u>
Total	<u>\$ 21,345,630</u>	<u>\$ 20,563,111</u>	<u>\$ 782,519</u>	<u>3.81 %</u>

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

	<u>2024</u> <u>Amount</u>	<u>2023</u> <u>Amount</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Percentage</u> <u>Change</u>
<b><u>Expenditures</u></b>				
Instruction	\$ 13,277,165	\$ 12,024,987	\$ 1,252,178	10.41 %
Support services	8,300,298	7,553,580	746,718	9.89 %
Operation of non-instructional services	19,482	-	19,482	100.00 %
Extracurricular activities	657,529	643,948	13,581	2.11 %
Capital Outlay	-	20,386	(20,386)	100.00 %
Debt service	85,890	89,530	(3,640)	(4.07) %
Total	<u>\$ 22,340,364</u>	<u>\$ 20,332,431</u>	<u>\$ 2,007,933</u>	<u>9.88 %</u>

Overall revenues and expenditures of the general fund increased \$782,519 and \$2,007,933, respectively. Interest earnings increased as investments matured and the change in fair value of investments increased due to fluctuations in the economy. All other revenues and expenditures remained comparable to the prior fiscal year.

***General Fund Budgeting Highlights***

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

For the general fund, final budgeted revenues and other financing sources of \$21,810,394 remained the same as the original budgeted revenues and other financing sources. Actual revenues and other financing sources were \$21,768,008 which was \$42,386 less than the final budgeted amounts.

General fund final and original appropriations (appropriated expenditures plus other financing uses) were \$23,268,943 and \$22,668,943, respectively. The actual budget basis expenditures and other financing uses for fiscal year 2024 totaled \$22,579,942, which was \$689,001 less than the final budgeted amounts.

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**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**Capital Assets and Debt Administration**

***Capital Assets***

At the end of fiscal year 2024, the District had \$31,519,391 invested in land, land improvements, buildings and improvements, furniture and equipment, vehicles and intangible right to use - leased assets.

The following table shows June 30, 2024 balances compared to those at June 30, 2023.

**Capital Assets at June 30  
(Net of Depreciation/Amortization)**

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>	
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Land	\$ 851,565	\$ 851,565
Land improvements	611,622	557,477
Buildings and improvements	27,261,721	27,881,081
Furniture and equipment	1,283,735	1,191,883
Vehicles	1,278,076	931,518
Intangible right to use - leased assets	232,672	332,192
Total	<u>\$ 31,519,391</u>	<u>\$ 31,745,716</u>

The overall decrease in capital assets of \$226,325 is due to capital outlays of \$981,355 exceeding depreciation/amortization expense of \$1,207,680.

See Note 8 to the basic financial statements for additional information on the District's capital assets.

***Debt Administration***

At June 30, 2024, the District had \$100,000 in energy conservation improvement bonds outstanding, \$22,060,000 in general obligation bonds, \$187,517 in leases payable, and \$6,792 in SBITAs payable. Of this total, \$541,985 is due within one year and \$21,812,324 is due in more than one year.

The following table summarizes the long-term obligations outstanding at June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2023.

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>	
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
General obligation bonds	\$ 22,060,000	\$ 22,430,000
Energy conservation improvement bonds	100,000	170,000
SBITA payable	6,792	13,336
Leases payable	187,517	245,509
Total	<u>\$ 22,354,309</u>	<u>\$ 22,858,845</u>

At June 30, 2024, the District's overall legal debt margin was \$16,715,668, with an unvoted debt margin of \$422,152.

See Note 9 to the basic financial statements for additional information on the District's debt administration.

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**Current Financial Related Activities**

The District continues to face a challenging future as do most districts in the State of Ohio. As the preceding information shows, the District relies heavily upon grants and entitlements and property taxes. Since future grant and entitlement revenue stability is in question, the reliance upon local property taxes is increasingly important. In November of 2020 voters approved the combination of two Emergency Levies that were set to expire into one 10-year Substitute Levy that will generate \$2,320,000 a year but will also allow growth on any new construction each year.

A building project has been a high priority of the District over the last decade. After several failed attempts in 2007, 2015 and 2016, the Board placed a request for a 4.28 mill levy on the November 2019 ballot (including the required 0.5 mill PI maintenance levy). In previous years, the District had planned to build a newly joined Middle School and High School with a State funding share of 19%. After failing in 2016, the Board took a step back and engaged with the community in an attempt to figure out what would be supported. The levy in November 2019 was to build a new High School with some shared spaces for the Middle School (cafeteria, kitchen, gym, administrative offices) and to move the middle school into the current high school with a 19% share still coming from the State. That levy was successful, and the new building is under construction. The project was completed in July 2022 in time for the fiscal year 2023 school year.

For several years, the District has been dealing with significant property tax disputes with Green Circle Growers, which owns and operates a large greenhouse complex in the District. Green Circle Grower's challenged the valuation/classification of its property dating back to tax year 2015. In March of 2021 the Ninth District Court of Appeals confirmed a 2018 Ohio Board of Tax Appeals decision in favor of Green Circle Growers agreeing that their greenhouses are personal property/business fixtures and are not subject to property taxes. In response, Lorain County made an attempt at an appeal to the Ohio Supreme Court, but in July 2021 they decided not to hear the case. As a result, the District owes approximately \$2.95 million in refunds to Green Circle Growers. This refund will be repaid as a reduction of property tax receipt over the two calendar years (3 fiscal years) which began in 2022.

District enrollment increased minimally in fiscal year 2024. Open enrollment has continued to stabilize the District's enrollment and finances. Net positive open enrollment continues to increase each year. Since implementing full open enrollment, the District has continued to experience an increase in net dollars gained from open enrollment.

The District's system of budgeting and internal controls is well regarded, winning the Ohio Auditor of State Award for several years, including the previous five fiscal years. It is important that the administration and board of education continue to monitor the finances of the district in order to meet the financial challenges of the future while still providing students with what they need.

**Contacting the District's Financial Management**

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, taxpayers, and investors and creditors with a general overview of the District's finances and to show the District's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional financial information contact: Ms. Keri Angney, Treasurer, Firelands Local School District, 112 North Lake St. South Amherst, OH 44001-2824.

BASIC  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO**

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION  
JUNE 30, 2024

	<b>Governmental Activities</b>
<b>Assets:</b>	
Equity in pooled cash and investments	\$ 22,430,395
Receivables:	
Property taxes	18,316,438
Payment in lieu of taxes	13,322
Accounts	79,201
Accrued interest	89,518
Intergovernmental	821,497
Lease	292,120
Prepayments	70,710
Materials and supplies inventory	3,239
Inventory held for resale	8,445
Net OPEB asset	1,285,918
Capital assets:	
Nondepreciable/amortized capital assets	851,565
Depreciable/amortized capital assets, net	30,667,826
Capital assets, net	<u>31,519,391</u>
Total assets	<u>74,930,194</u>
<b>Deferred outflows of resources:</b>	
Pension	3,899,213
OPEB	853,450
Total deferred outflows of resources	<u>4,752,663</u>
<b>Liabilities:</b>	
Accounts payable	173,183
Accrued wages and benefits payable	1,997,907
Intergovernmental payable	548,753
Accrued interest payable	139,143
Long-term liabilities:	
Due within one year	677,867
Due in more than one year:	
Net pension liability	18,648,040
Net OPEB liability	1,354,206
Other amounts due in more than one year	24,003,993
Total liabilities	<u>47,543,092</u>
<b>Deferred inflows of resources:</b>	
Property taxes levied for the next fiscal year	12,428,601
Payment in lieu of taxes levied for the next fiscal year	13,322
Lease	274,389
Pension	1,293,294
OPEB	2,224,319
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>16,233,925</u>
<b>Net position:</b>	
Net investment in capital assets	9,265,086
Restricted for:	
Capital projects	378,483
Classroom facilities maintenance	435,033
Debt service	337,869
Unclaimed monies	803
State funded programs	40,284
Food service operations	769,636
Student activities	132,052
OPEB	1,285,918
Unrestricted	3,260,676
Total net position	<u><u>\$ 15,905,840</u></u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO**

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

		Program Revenues			Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Position
	Expenses	Charges for Services and Sales	Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions	Governmental Activities
<b>Governmental activities:</b>					
Instruction:					
Regular	\$ 9,700,355	\$ 845,409	\$ 172,521	\$ -	\$ (8,682,425)
Special	4,227,399	85,786	1,142,184	-	(2,999,429)
Vocational	305,224	-	33,343	-	(271,881)
Other	209,320	-	-	-	(209,320)
Support services:					
Pupil	1,629,813	77,560	273,880	-	(1,278,373)
Instructional staff	161,016	-	-	-	(161,016)
Board of education	14,560	-	-	-	(14,560)
Administration	2,040,985	-	91,922	-	(1,949,063)
Fiscal	628,707	-	-	-	(628,707)
Operations and maintenance	2,560,783	17,962	10,413	-	(2,532,408)
Pupil transportation	1,607,543	20,334	128,177	45,000	(1,414,032)
Central	595,061	-	250,359	-	(344,702)
Operation of non-instructional services:					
Food service operations	982,710	452,090	656,523	-	125,903
Other non-instructional services	18,772	-	1	-	(18,771)
Extracurricular activities	974,313	292,160	-	2,500	(679,653)
Interest and fiscal charges	789,294	-	-	-	(789,294)
Totals	<u>\$ 26,445,855</u>	<u>\$ 1,791,301</u>	<u>\$ 2,759,323</u>	<u>\$ 47,500</u>	<u>(21,847,731)</u>
<b>General revenues:</b>					
Property taxes levied for:					
General purposes					10,114,408
Debt service					1,186,314
Capital outlay					531,592
Classroom facilities maintenance					95,457
Payments in lieu of taxes					13,321
Grants and entitlements not restricted to specific programs					9,428,390
Investment earnings					798,165
Change in fair value of investments					207,402
Miscellaneous					253,619
Total general revenues					<u>22,628,668</u>
Change in net position					780,937
Net position at beginning of year					<u>15,124,903</u>
Net position at end of year					<u>\$ 15,905,840</u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO**

BALANCE SHEET  
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
JUNE 30, 2024

	General	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<b>Assets:</b>			
Equity in pooled cash and investments	\$ 17,592,385	\$ 4,838,010	\$ 22,430,395
Receivables:			
Property taxes	15,786,675	2,529,763	18,316,438
Payment in lieu of taxes	11,174	2,148	13,322
Accounts	78,030	1,171	79,201
Accrued interest	89,518	-	89,518
Interfund loans	106,819	-	106,819
Intergovernmental	87,665	733,832	821,497
Lease	292,120	-	292,120
Prepayments	64,829	5,881	70,710
Materials and supplies inventory	-	3,239	3,239
Inventory held for resale	-	8,445	8,445
Loans due from other funds	384,803	-	384,803
Total assets	<u>\$ 34,494,018</u>	<u>\$ 8,122,489</u>	<u>\$ 42,616,507</u>
<b>Liabilities:</b>			
Accounts payable	\$ 55,209	\$ 117,974	\$ 173,183
Accrued wages and benefits payable	1,850,492	147,415	1,997,907
Compensated absences payable	51,959	-	51,959
Intergovernmental payable	527,869	20,884	548,753
Interfund loans payable	-	106,819	106,819
Loans from other funds	-	384,803	384,803
Total liabilities	<u>2,485,529</u>	<u>777,895</u>	<u>3,263,424</u>
<b>Deferred inflows of resources:</b>			
Property taxes levied for the next fiscal year	10,513,557	1,915,044	12,428,601
Payment in lieu of taxes levied for the next fiscal year	11,174	2,148	13,322
Delinquent property tax revenue not available	4,637,727	497,753	5,135,480
Intergovernmental revenue not available	16,284	238,447	254,731
Accrued interest not available	47,876	-	47,876
Lease	274,389	-	274,389
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>15,501,007</u>	<u>2,653,392</u>	<u>18,154,399</u>
<b>Fund balances:</b>			
Nonspendable:			
Materials and supplies inventory	-	3,239	3,239
Prepays	64,829	5,881	70,710
Long-term loans	384,803	-	384,803
Unclaimed monies	803	-	803
Restricted:			
Debt service	-	781,974	781,974
Capital improvements	-	1,586,395	1,586,395
Classroom facilities maintenance	-	435,033	435,033
Food service operations	-	802,156	802,156
State funded programs	-	40,284	40,284
Extracurricular	-	131,667	131,667
Committed:			
Capital improvements	-	925,457	925,457
Termination benefits	14,195	-	14,195
Latchkey program	-	17,314	17,314
Other purposes	-	169	169
Assigned:			
Student instruction	208,276	-	208,276
Student and staff support	522,614	-	522,614
Subsequent year's appropriations	1,162,799	-	1,162,799
Unassigned (deficit)	14,149,163	(38,367)	14,110,796
Total fund balances	<u>16,507,482</u>	<u>4,691,202</u>	<u>21,198,684</u>
Total liabilities, deferred inflows and fund balances	<u>\$ 34,494,018</u>	<u>\$ 8,122,489</u>	<u>\$ 42,616,507</u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO**

RECONCILIATION OF TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL FUND BALANCES TO  
NET POSITION OF GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES  
JUNE 30, 2024

<b>Total governmental fund balances</b>		\$ 21,198,684
<i>Amounts reported for governmental activities on the statement of net position are different because:</i>		
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported in the funds.		31,519,391
Other long-term assets are not available to pay for current-period expenditures and therefore are deferred inflows in the funds.		
Property taxes receivable	\$ 5,135,480	
Accrued interest receivable	47,876	
Intergovernmental receivable	254,731	
Total		5,438,087
Unamortized premiums on bonds issued are not recognized in the funds.		(907,828)
Accrued interest payable is not due and payable in the current period and therefore is not reported in the funds.		(139,143)
The net pension/OPEB assets & liabilities are not due and payable in the current period; therefore, the assets, liabilities and related deferred inflows/outflows are not reported in governmental funds.		
Deferred outflows - pension	3,899,213	
Deferred inflows - pension	(1,293,294)	
Net pension liability	(18,648,040)	
Deferred outflows - OPEB	853,450	
Deferred inflows - OPEB	(2,224,319)	
Net OPEB asset	1,285,918	
Net OPEB liability	(1,354,206)	
Total		(17,481,278)
Long-term liabilities, including bonds payable, are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds.		
General obligation bonds	(22,060,000)	
Energy conservation improvement bonds	(100,000)	
Lease payable	(187,517)	
SBITA payable	(6,792)	
Compensated absences	(1,367,764)	
Total		(23,722,073)
<b>Net position of governmental activities</b>		<u><u>\$ 15,905,840</u></u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO**

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES  
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	General	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<b>Revenues:</b>			
Property taxes	\$ 8,826,839	\$ 1,664,293	\$ 10,491,132
Intergovernmental	10,314,733	2,322,784	12,637,517
Investment earnings	777,697	-	777,697
Tuition and fees	932,633	-	932,633
Extracurricular	131,186	245,431	376,617
Rental income	17,962	-	17,962
Charges for services	11,999	452,090	464,089
Contributions and donations	15,827	3,251	19,078
Payment in lieu of taxes	11,174	2,147	13,321
Miscellaneous	98,178	139,615	237,793
Change in fair value of investments	207,402	-	207,402
Total revenues	<u>21,345,630</u>	<u>4,829,611</u>	<u>26,175,241</u>
<b>Expenditures:</b>			
Current:			
Instruction:			
Regular	9,231,445	294,654	9,526,099
Special	3,541,298	630,010	4,171,308
Vocational	295,102	5,021	300,123
Other	209,320	-	209,320
Support services:			
Pupil	1,649,061	8,744	1,657,805
Instructional staff	234,329	-	234,329
Board of education	14,938	-	14,938
Administration	1,900,052	91,922	1,991,974
Fiscal	592,925	27,859	620,784
Operations and maintenance	1,954,056	86,061	2,040,117
Pupil transportation	1,649,621	273,512	1,923,133
Central	305,316	268,991	574,307
Operation of non-instructional services:			
Food service operations	-	993,263	993,263
Other non-instructional services	19,482	1,003	20,485
Extracurricular activities	657,529	303,106	960,635
Facilities acquisition and construction	-	665,847	665,847
Debt service:			
Principal retirement	76,544	427,992	504,536
Interest and fiscal charges	9,346	818,816	828,162
Total expenditures	<u>22,340,364</u>	<u>4,896,801</u>	<u>27,237,165</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>(994,734)</u>	<u>(67,190)</u>	<u>(1,061,924)</u>
<b>Other financing sources (uses):</b>			
Transfers in	-	90,000	90,000
Transfers (out)	(90,000)	-	(90,000)
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>(90,000)</u>	<u>90,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Net change in fund balances	(1,084,734)	22,810	(1,061,924)
<b>Fund balances at beginning of year</b>	17,592,216	4,665,716	22,257,932
<b>Change in reserve for inventory</b>	-	2,676	2,676
<b>Fund balances at end of year</b>	<u>\$ 16,507,482</u>	<u>\$ 4,691,202</u>	<u>\$ 21,198,684</u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LORAIN COUNTY, 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** **\$ (1,061,924)**

*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 is allocated over their estimated useful lives as depreciation/amortization expense.

Capital asset additions	\$ 981,355	
Current year depreciation/amortization	(1,207,680)	
<b>Total</b>		<b>(226,325)</b>

Governmental funds report expenditures for inventory when purchased. However, in the statement of activities, they are reported as an expense when consumed.

2,676

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

Property taxes	1,436,639	
Earnings on investments	20,468	
Intergovernmental	(405,556)	
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,051,551</b>

Repayment of bond, lease and SBITA principal is an expenditure in the governmental funds, but the repayment reduces long-term liabilities on the statement of net position.

504,536

In the statement of activities, interest is accrued on outstanding bonds, whereas in governmental funds, an interest expenditure is reported when due. The following items resulted in additional interest being reported in the statement of activities:

Decrease in accrued interest payable	3,923	
Amortization of bond premiums	34,945	
<b>Total</b>		<b>38,868</b>

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

Pension	1,836,210	
OPEB	61,379	
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,897,589</b>

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

Pension	(1,509,616)	
OPEB	226,278	
<b>Total</b>		<b>(1,283,338)</b>

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.

(142,696)

**Change in net position of governmental activities** **\$ 780,937**

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO**

STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION  
FIDUCIARY FUND  
JUNE 30, 2024

	<u><b>Custodial</b></u>
<b>Assets:</b>	
Equity in pooled cash and investments	\$ 3,938
Receivables:	
Accounts	<u>35,750</u>
Total assets	<u>39,688</u>
<b>Net position:</b>	
Restricted for scholarships	<u>\$ 39,688</u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO**

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION  
FIDUCIARY FUND  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	<u>Custodial</u>
<b>Additions:</b>	
Contributions and donations	<u>\$ 37,161</u>
<b>Deductions:</b>	
Scholarships awarded	<u>24,409</u>
Change in net position	12,752
<b>Net position at beginning of year</b>	<u>26,936</u>
<b>Net position at end of year</b>	<u><u>\$ 39,688</u></u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**NOTE 1 - DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

The Firelands Local School District, Lorain County, Ohio (the “District”) is a body politic and corporate established for the purpose of exercising the rights and privileges conveyed to it by the Constitution and laws of the State of Ohio. The District operates under an elected Board of Education, consisting of five members and is responsible for the provision of public education to residents of the District.

The District is staffed by approximately 118 certified employees and 88 classified employees. Personnel of the district provide services to approximately 1,782 students and other community members.

**NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The basic financial statements (BFS) of the District have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (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 District’s significant accounting policies are described below.

**A. Reporting Entity**

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

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

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

*JOINTLY GOVERNED ORGANIZATIONS*

Lorain County Joint Vocational School District (JVS)

The Lorain County Joint Vocational School District (JVS) is a distinct subdivision of the State of Ohio operated under the direction of a Board, consisting of one representative from each participating school district’s elected Board, which possesses its own budgeting and taxing authority. Accordingly, the JVS is not part of the District and its operations are not included as part of the reporting entity. Financial information can be obtained by contacting the Treasurer at the Lorain County Joint Vocational School District, 15181 State Route 58, Oberlin, Ohio, 44074.

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

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

Metropolitan Educational Technology Association (META) Solutions

The District is a participant in META Solutions which is a computer consortium that resulted from the mergers between Tri-Rivers Educational Computer Association (TRECA), Metropolitan Educational Council (MEC), Metropolitan Dayton Educational Cooperative Association (MDECA), Southeastern Ohio Valley Voluntary Education Cooperative (SEOVEC), and South Central Ohio Computer Association (SCOCA). META Solutions develops, implements and supports the technology and instructional needs of schools in a cost-effective manner. META Solutions provides instructional, core, technology and purchasing services for its member districts. The Board of Directors consists of the Superintendents from eleven of the member districts. During fiscal year 2024, the District paid META Solutions \$47,842 for services. Financial information can be obtained from Ashley Widby, who serves as Chief Financial Officer, 100 Executive Drive, Marion, Ohio 43302.

Lake Erie Regional Council (LERC)

The Lake Erie Regional Council (LERC) is a jointly governed organization comprised of fourteen school districts. The jointly governed organization was formed for the purpose of promoting cooperative agreements and activities among its members in dealing with problems of mutual concern such as media center, gas consumption, driver education, food service, and insurance. Each member provides operating resources to the LERC on a per-pupil or actual usage charge. The LERC Assembly consists of a Superintendent or designated representative from each participating school district and the fiscal agent. The LERC is governed by a Board of Directors chosen from the general membership. The degree of control exercised by any participating school district is limited to its representation on the Board of Directors. Financial information can be obtained by contacting the Treasurer at the Educational Service Center of Lorain County, who serves as fiscal agent, at 1885 Lake Avenue, Elyria, Ohio, 44035.

*PUBLIC ENTITY RISK POOL*

Workers' Compensation Group Rating Program

The District participates in a Workers' Compensation Group Rating Program (GRP) administered by Sheakley Uniservice, Inc. The intent of the GRP is to achieve the benefit of a reduced premium for the District by virtue of its grouping and representation with other participants in the GRP. The District pays a fee to the GRP to cover the costs of administering the program.

**B. Fund Accounting**

The District uses funds to report its financial position and the results of its operations. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain District activities or functions. Funds are classified into three categories: governmental, proprietary and fiduciary. Each category is divided into separate fund types. The District has no proprietary funds.

*GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS*

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

The following is the District's only major governmental fund:

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

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

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

Other governmental funds of the District are used to account for:

***Nonmajor special revenue funds*** - Special revenue funds are used to account for and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditures for specified purposes other than debt service or capital projects.

***Nonmajor capital projects funds*** - Capital projects funds are used to account for and report financial resources that are restricted or committed to expenditures for capital outlays, including the acquisition or construction of capital facilities and other capital assets.

***Nonmajor debt service fund*** - Debt service funds are used to account for and report financial resources that are restricted to expenditures for principal and interest.

***FIDUCIARY FUNDS***

Fiduciary fund reporting focuses on net position and changes in net position. The fiduciary fund category is split into four classifications: private-purpose trust funds, custodial funds, pension trust funds and investment trust funds. Trust funds are used to account for assets held by the District under a trust agreement for individuals, private organizations, or other governments and are therefore not available to support the District's own programs. The District has no trust funds. Custodial funds are used to report fiduciary activities that are not required to be reported in a trust fund. The District's custodial fund accounts for scholarships in which the District has no administrative involvement.

**C. Basis of Presentation and Measurement Focus**

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

The government-wide statement of activities presents a comparison between direct expenses and program revenues for each function or program of the District's governmental activities. Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with a service, program or department and are therefore clearly identifiable to a particular function. Program revenues include charges paid by the recipient of the goods or services offered by the program and grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. Revenues which are not classified as program revenues are presented as general revenues of the District. The comparison of direct expenses with program revenues identifies the extent to which each governmental function is self-financing or draws from the general revenues of the District.

The government-wide financial statements are prepared using the economic resources measurement focus. All assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources associated with the operation of the District are included on the statement of net position.

***Fund Financial Statements*** - Fund financial statements report detailed information about the District. The focus of governmental financial statements is on major funds rather than reporting funds by type. Each major fund is presented in a separate column. Nonmajor funds are aggregated and presented in a single column. Fiduciary funds are reported by fund type.



**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

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

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 a reconciliation with brief explanations to better identify the relationship between the government-wide statements and the statements for governmental funds.

The fiduciary funds are reported using the economic resources measurement focus. All assets and liabilities associated with the operation of fiduciary funds are included on the statement of net fiduciary position. Fiduciary funds present a statement of changes in fiduciary net position which reports additions to and deductions from custodial funds. 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.

**D. 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 on the fund financial statements. Fiduciary funds also use the accrual basis of accounting. Differences in the accrual and modified accrual basis of accounting arise in the recognition of revenue, the recording of deferred inflows of resources and deferred outflows of resources, and in the presentation of expenses versus expenditures.

Revenues - Exchange and Nonexchange 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 District, available means expected to be received within sixty days of fiscal year end.

Nonexchange transactions, in which the District receives value without directly giving equal value in return, include property taxes, grants, entitlements and donations. On an accrual basis, revenue from property taxes is recognized in the fiscal year for which the taxes are levied (See Note 6). Revenue from grants, entitlements and donations is recognized in the fiscal year in which all eligibility requirements have been satisfied.

Eligibility requirements include timing requirements, which specify the year when the resources are required to be used or the year when use is first permitted, matching requirements, in which the District must provide local resources to be used for a specified purpose, and expenditure requirements, in which the resources are provided to the District 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 fiscal year end: property taxes available as an advance, interest, tuition, grants, student fees and rentals.

Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources - In addition to assets, the government-wide statement of net position will report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. Deferred outflows of resources represent a consumption of net assets that applies to a future period and will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. See Notes 12 and 13 for deferred outflows of resources related to net pension liability and net OPEB liability/asset, respectively.

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

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

In addition to liabilities, both the government-wide statement of net position and the governmental fund financial statements 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. Deferred inflows of resources include property taxes, payment in lieu of taxes and unavailable revenue. Property taxes and payment in lieu of taxes represent amounts for which there is an enforceable legal claim as of June 30, 2024, but which were levied to finance fiscal year 2025 operations. These amounts have been recorded as a deferred inflow of resources on both the government-wide statement of net position and the governmental fund financial statements. Unavailable revenue is reported only on the governmental funds balance sheet, and represents receivables which will not be collected within the available period. Unavailable revenue includes, but is not limited to, delinquent property taxes and intergovernmental grants. These amounts are deferred and recognized as an inflow of resources in the period the amounts become available. The deferred inflow of resources for leases is related to the lease receivable and is being amortized to lease revenue in a systematic and rational manner over the term of the lease.

See Notes 12 and 13 for deferred inflows of resources related to net pension liability and net OPEB liability/asset, respectively. These deferred inflows of resources are only reported on the government-wide statement of net position.

Expenses/Expenditures - On the accrual basis of accounting, expenses are recognized at the time they are incurred. The entitlement value of donated commodities received during the year is reported in the operating statement as an expense with a like amount reported as intergovernmental revenue.

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.

**E. Budgets**

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

Tax Budget:

Prior to January 15, the Superintendent and Treasurer submit to the Board of Education a proposed operating budget for the fiscal year commencing the following July 1. The budget includes proposed expenditures and the means of financing for all funds. Public hearings are publicized and conducted to obtain taxpayers' comments. The purpose of this budget document is to reflect the need for existing (or increased) tax rates. By no later than January 20, the Board-adopted budget is filed with the Lorain County Budget Commission for rate determination.

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

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

Estimated Resources:

By April 1, the Board of Education accepts, by formal resolution, the tax rates as determined by the Budget Commission and receives the Commission's certificate of estimated resources, which states the projected revenue of each fund. Prior to July 1, the District must revise its budget so that total contemplated expenditures from any fund during the ensuing year will not exceed the amount stated in the certificate of estimated resources. The revised budget then serves as the basis for the appropriation measure. On or about July 1, the certificate is amended to include any unencumbered cash balances from the preceding year. The certificate may be further amended during the year if projected increases or decreases in revenue are identified by the District Treasurer. The amounts reported in the budgetary statement reflect the amounts in the original and final amended certificates of estimated resources issued during the fiscal year.

Appropriations:

Upon receipt from the County Auditor of an amended certificate of estimated resources based on final assessed values and tax rates or a certificate saying no new certificate is necessary, the annual appropriations resolution is enacted by the Board of Education. Prior to the passage of the annual appropriation measure, the Board may pass a temporary appropriation measure to meet the ordinary expenditures of the District. The appropriations resolution must be within the estimated resources as certified by the County Budget Commission and the total of expenditures may not exceed the appropriation totals at any level of control. Any revisions that alter the fund level must be approved by the Board of Education.

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

**F. Cash and Investments**

To improve cash management, cash received by the District is pooled. Monies for all funds are maintained in this pool. Individual fund integrity is maintained through the District's records. Each fund's interest in the pool is presented as "equity in pooled cash and investments" on the basic financial statements.

During fiscal year 2024, investments consisted of negotiable certificates of deposit (negotiable CDs), Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA) securities, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (FHLMC) securities, Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB) securities, Federal Farm Credit Bank (FFCB) securities, Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation (FAMC) securities, Private Export Funding Corporation (PEFCO), Tennessee Valley Authority (TNNLL), U.S. Treasury bonds, U.S. Treasury notes, non-taxable municipal bonds, U.S. government money market funds and the State Treasury Asset Reserve of Ohio (STAR Ohio). Investments are reported at fair value, which is based on quoted market prices. Nonparticipating investment contracts, such as nonnegotiable certificates of deposit, are reported at cost.

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

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

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

There were no limitations or restrictions on any participant withdrawals due to redemption notice periods, liquidity fees, or redemption gates. However, 24 hours notice in advance of all deposits and withdrawals exceeding \$100 million is appreciated. STAR Ohio reserves the right to limit the transaction to \$250 million per day. All accounts of the participant will be combined for these purposes.

Under existing Ohio statute, interest earnings are assigned to the general fund unless the Board of Education has, by resolution, specified funds to receive an allocation of interest earnings. Interest revenue credited to the general fund during fiscal year 2024 amounted to \$771,737, which includes \$165,032 assigned from other District funds. The general fund also received \$5,960 in interest revenue from lessor lease agreements.

For presentation on the basic financial statements, investments of the cash management pool and investments with original maturities of three months or less at the time they are purchased by the District are considered to be cash equivalents. Investments with an initial maturity of more than three months are reported as investments.

An analysis of the District's investment account at fiscal year-end is provided in Note 4.

**G. Prepayments**

Certain payments to vendors reflect the costs applicable to future accounting periods and are recorded as prepayments in both government-wide and fund financial statements. These items are reported as assets on the statement of net position/balance sheet using the consumption method. A current asset for the prepaid amounts is recorded at the time of the purchase and the expense/expenditure is reported in the year in which services are consumed. At fiscal year-end, because prepayments are not available to finance future governmental fund expenditures, the fund balance is considered nonspendable in an amount equal to the carrying value of the asset on the fund financial statements.

**H. Inventory**

On government-wide and fund financial statements, purchased inventories are presented at the lower of cost or market and donated commodities are presented at their entitlement value. Inventories are recorded on a first-in, first-out basis and are expensed/expended when used. Inventories are accounted for using the purchase method on the fund financial statements and using the consumption method on the government-wide statements.

On the fund financial statements, reported materials and supplies inventory is equally offset by nonspendable fund balance in the governmental funds, which indicates that it does not constitute available spendable resources even though it is a component of net current assets.

Inventory consists of expendable supplies held for consumption, donated food and purchased food.

**I. Capital Assets**

General capital assets result from expenditures in the governmental funds. These assets are reported in the governmental activities column of the government-wide statement of net position, but are not reported in the fund financial statements.

All capital assets are capitalized at cost (or estimated historical cost) and updated for additions and deductions during the year. Donated capital assets are recorded at their acquisition values as of the date received. The District maintains a capitalization threshold of \$5,000. The District 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.

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

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

All reported capital assets except land and construction in progress are depreciated/amortized. Improvements are depreciated over the remaining useful lives of the related capital assets. Depreciation/amortization is computed using the straight-line method over the following useful lives:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Governmental Activities Estimated Lives</u>
Land improvements	10 years
Buildings and improvements	10 - 50 years
Furniture and equipment	5 - 10 years
Vehicles	10 years
Intangible right to use:	
Leased equipment	5 years
Leased software	3 years

The District is reporting intangible right to use assets related to leased equipment and software. The intangible assets are being amortized in a systematic and rational manner of the shorter of the lease term or the useful life of the underlying asset.

**J. Compensated Absences**

Compensated absences of the District consist of vacation leave and sick leave to the extent that payments to the employee for these absences are attributable to services already rendered and are not contingent on a specific event that is outside the control of the District and the employee.

In accordance with the provisions of GASB Statement No. 16, "Accounting for Compensated Absences", a liability for vacation leave is accrued if a) the employees' rights to payment are attributable to services already rendered; and b) it is probable that the employer will compensate the employees for the benefits through paid time off or other means, such as cash payment at termination or retirement. An accrual for earned sick leave is made to the extent that it is probable that the benefits will result in termination (severance) payments. A liability for sick leave is accrued using the vesting method; i.e., the liability is based on the sick leave accumulated at the balance sheet date by those employees who are currently eligible to receive termination (severance) payments, as well as those employees expected to become eligible in the future. For purposes of establishing a liability for sick leave on employees expected to become eligible to retire in the future, all employees age fifty or greater with at least ten years of service and all employees with at least twenty years of service regardless of their age and with at least three years of service with the District were considered expected to become eligible to retire in accordance with GASB Statement No. 16.

The total liability for vacation leave and sick leave payments has been calculated using pay rates in effect at June 30, 2024 and reduced to the maximum payment allowed by labor contract and/or statute, plus any additional salary related payments.

The entire compensated absences liability is reported on the government-wide financial statements.

For governmental fund financial statements, the current portion of unpaid compensated absences is the amount expected to be paid using expendable available resources. These amounts are recorded in the account "compensated absences payable". The noncurrent portion of the liability is not reported.

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

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

**K. Accrued Liabilities and Long-Term Obligations**

All payables, accrued liabilities, and long-term obligations are reported in the government-wide 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 judgments 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 year. Bonds payable, notes payable and lease obligations are recognized as a liability in the fund financial statements when due. 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.

**L. Bond Issuance Costs and Bond Premium/Discount**

On the governmental fund financial statements, issuance costs and bond premiums/discounts are recognized in the current period.

On the government-wide financial statements, issuance costs are recognized in the current period and are not amortized. Bond premiums and discounts are amortized over the term of the bonds using the straight-line method. Unamortized bond premiums are presented as an addition to the face amount of the bonds reported on the statement of net position. Unamortized bond discounts are presented as a reduction to the face amount of the bonds reported on the statement of net position. The reconciliation between the bonds face value and the amount reported on the statement of net position is presented in Note 9.

**M. Fund Balance**

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

*Nonspendable* - The nonspendable fund balance classification includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are not in spendable form or legally 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 are placed on the use of resources that are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments, or imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

*Committed* - The committed fund balance classification includes amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes imposed by a formal action (resolution) of the District Board of Education (the highest level of decision making authority). Those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the District Board of Education removes or changes the specified use by taking the same type of action (resolution) it employed to previously commit those amounts. Committed fund 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.

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

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

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

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

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

**N. Net Position**

Net position represents the difference between assets plus deferred outflows of resources and liabilities plus deferred inflows of resources. The net position component “net investment in capital assets,” consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation/amortization, reduced by the outstanding balances of any borrowing or liabilities used for the acquisition, construction or improvement of those assets. Deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources that are attributable to the acquisition, construction or improvement of those assets or related debt also should be included in this component of net position. Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on its use either through the enabling legislation adopted by the District or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors or laws or regulations of other governments.

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

**O. Estimates**

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

**P. Restricted Assets**

Assets are reported as restricted assets when limitations on their use change the normal understanding of the availability of the asset. Such constraints are either imposed by creditors, contributors, grantors, or laws of other governments or imposed by enabling legislation. The District has no restricted assets as of June 30, 2024.

**Q. Interfund Activity**

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

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

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

**R. Interfund Balances**

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

**S. Pensions/Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)**

For purposes of measuring the net pension/OPEB liability, net OPEB 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.

**T. Extraordinary and Special Items**

Extraordinary items are transactions or events that are both unusual in nature and infrequent in occurrence. Special items are transactions or events that are within the control of the Board of Education and that are either unusual in nature or infrequent in occurrence. Neither type of transaction occurred during fiscal year 2024.

**U. Fair Value**

The District 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.

**NOTE 3 - ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMPLIANCE**

**A. Change in Accounting Principles**

For fiscal year 2024, the District has implemented certain paragraphs from GASB Implementation Guide No. 2021-1, certain paragraphs of GASB Statement No. 99, “*Omnibus 2022*”, GASB Statement No. 100, “*Accounting Changes and Error Corrections - an amendment of GASB Statement No. 62*” and Implementation Guide No. 2023-1.

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

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

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



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**NOTE 3 - ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMPLIANCE - (Continued)**

GASB Implementation Guide 2023-1 provides clarification on issues related to previously established GASB guidance. The implementation of GASB Implementation Guide 2023-1 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the District.

**B. Deficit Fund Balances**

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

<u>Nonmajor governmental funds</u>	<u>Deficit</u>
Elementary and Secondary School Emergency (ESSER)	\$ 3,145
IDEA, Part B	24,841
Title I, Disadvantaged Children	8,849
Supporting Effective Instruction	1,532

The general fund is liable for any deficit in these funds and provides transfers when cash is required, not when accruals occur. The deficit fund balances resulted from adjustments for accrued liabilities.

**NOTE 4 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. United States Treasury Notes, Bills, Bonds, or any other obligation or security issued by the United States Treasury or any other obligation guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States;
2. Bonds, notes, debentures, or any other obligations or securities issued by any federal government agency or instrumentality, including, but not limited to, the Federal National Mortgage Association, Federal Home Loan Bank, Federal Farm Credit Bank, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation and Government National Mortgage Association. All federal agency securities shall be direct issuances of federal government agencies or instrumentalities;
3. Written repurchase agreements in the securities listed above provided that the fair value of the securities subject to the repurchase agreement must exceed the principal value of the agreement by at least two percent and be marked to market daily, and that the term of the agreement must not exceed thirty days;

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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**NOTE 4 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS - (Continued)**

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 subdivision 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 items (1) and (2) above and repurchase agreements secured by such obligations, provided that investments in securities described in this division are made only through eligible institutions;
7. The State Treasurer's investment pool, the State Treasury Asset Reserve of Ohio (STAR Ohio);
8. Certain bankers' acceptances for a period not to exceed one hundred eighty days) and commercial paper notes (for a period not to exceed two hundred seventy days) in an amount not to exceed 40 percent of the interim monies available for investment at any one time if training requirements have been met; and,

Protection of the District's deposits is provided by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), by eligible securities pledged by the financial institution as security for repayment, by surety company bonds deposited with the Treasurer by the financial institution or by a single collateral pool established by the financial institution to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited with the institution.

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

**A. Deposits with Financial Institutions**

At June 30, 2024, the carrying amount of all District deposits was \$3,947,781. Based on the criteria described in GASB Statement No. 40, "Deposits and Investment Risk Disclosures", as of June 30, 2024, \$973,409 of the District's bank balance of \$4,326,269 was exposed to custodial risk, while \$250,031 was covered by the FDIC, and \$3,102,829 by the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS).

Custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of bank failure, the District will not be able to recover deposits or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The District has no deposit policy for custodial credit risk beyond the requirements of State statute. Ohio law requires that deposits either be insured or protected by (1) eligible securities pledged to the District's and deposited with a qualified trustee by the financial institution as security for repayment whose fair value at all times shall be at least 105 percent of the deposits being secured, or (2) 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 fair value of the securities pledged to be 102 percent of the deposits being secured or a rate set by the Treasurer of State. For fiscal year 2024, the District's financial institutions were approved for an increased collateral rate of 60 percent through the OPCS. Although all statutory requirements for the deposit of money had been followed, noncompliance with Federal requirements could potentially subject the District to a successful claim by the FDIC.

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**NOTE 4 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS - (Continued)**

**B. Investments**

As of June 30, 2024, the District had the following investments and maturities:

Measurement/ Investment type	Measurement Value	Investment Maturities				
		6 months or less	7 to 12 months	13 to 18 months	19 to 24 months	Greater than 24 months
Fair value:						
Negotiable CDs	\$ 1,148,930	\$ 887,766	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 261,164
FNMA	598,280	195,252	-	403,028	-	-
FHLB	931,411	-	-	-	314,182	617,229
FFCB	1,677,468	-	270,752	188,172	-	1,218,544
FAMC	348,919	-	-	-	233,645	115,274
FHLMC	235,085	-	-	235,085	-	-
PEFCO	177,716	-	-	-	-	177,716
TNNLL	72,796	-	-	-	-	72,796
U.S. Treasury bonds	278,046	99,603	-	-	75,516	102,927
U.S. Treasury notes	2,716,139	-	-	187,879	178,871	2,349,389
Non-taxable municipal bond	107,028	-	-	-	-	107,028
U.S. Government money market	14,046	14,046	-	-	-	-
Amortized cost:						
STAR Ohio	10,180,688	10,180,688	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 18,486,552	\$ 11,377,355	\$ 270,752	\$ 1,014,164	\$ 802,214	\$ 5,022,067

The weighted average maturity of investments is 1.15 years.

The District's investments in U.S. Government money market accounts are valued using quoted market prices in active markets (Level 1 inputs). The District's investments in federal agency securities (FNMA, FHLMC, FHLB, FFCB, and FAMC), PEFCO, TNNLL, U.S. Treasury bonds, U.S. Treasury notes, non-taxable municipal bonds, and negotiable CDs are valued using quoted prices in markets that are not considered to be active, dealer quotations or alternative pricing sources for similar assets or liabilities for which all significant inputs are observable, either directly or indirectly (Level 2 inputs).

*Credit Risk:* The District's investments in STAR Ohio and the U.S. Government money market carry a rating of AAAM by Standard & Poor's. Ohio law requires that STAR Ohio maintain the highest rating provided by at least one nationally recognized standard rating service. The District's investments in federal agency securities (FNMA, FHLMC, FHLB, FFCB, and FAMC), PEFCO, TNNLL, U.S. Treasury bonds, and U.S. Treasury notes were rated AA+ and Aaa by Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investor Services, respectively. The non-taxable municipal bond was rated AAA and Aaa by Standard & Poor's and Moody's, respectively. The District's investments in negotiable CDs were not rated. The negotiable CDs were fully insured by FDIC. The District has no investment policy dealing with investment credit risk beyond the requirements in State statutes.

*Custodial Credit Risk:* For an investment, custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the District will not be able to recover the value of its investment or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The federal agency securities and negotiable certificates of deposit are exposed to custodial credit risk in that they are uninsured, unregistered and held by the counterparty's trust department or agent, but not in the District's name. The District has no investment policy dealing with investment custodial risk beyond the requirement in State statute that prohibits payment for investments prior to the delivery of the securities representing such investments to the Treasurer or qualified trustee.

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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**NOTE 4 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS - (Continued)**

*Concentration of Credit Risk:* The District places no limit on the amount that may be invested in any one issuer. The following table includes the percentage of each investment type held by the District at June 30, 2024:

<u>Measurement/ Investment type</u>	<u>Measurement Value</u>	<u>% to Total</u>
<i>Fair value:</i>		
Negotiable CDs	\$ 1,148,930	6.21%
FNMA	598,280	3.24%
FHLB	931,411	5.04%
FFCB	1,677,468	9.07%
FAMC	348,919	1.89%
FHLMC	235,085	1.27%
PEFCO	177,716	0.96%
TNNLL	72,796	0.39%
U.S. Treasury bonds	278,046	1.50%
U.S. Treasury notes	2,716,139	14.70%
Non-taxable bond	107,028	0.58%
U.S. Government money market	14,046	0.08%
<i>Amortized cost:</i>		
STAR Ohio	10,180,688	55.07%
Total	<u>\$ 18,486,552</u>	<u>100.00%</u>

**C. Reconciliation of Cash and Investments to the Statement of Net Position**

The following is a reconciliation of cash and investments as reported in the note above to cash and investments as reported on the statement of net position as of June 30, 2024:

<u>Cash and investments per note</u>	
Carrying amount of deposits	\$ 3,947,781
Investments	<u>18,486,552</u>
Total	<u>\$ 22,434,333</u>
<u>Cash and investments per statement of net position</u>	
Governmental activities	\$ 22,430,395
Custodial fund	<u>3,938</u>
Total	<u>\$ 22,434,333</u>

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**NOTE 5 - INTERFUND TRANSACTIONS**

- A. Interfund transfers for the year ended June 30, 2024 consisted of the following, as reported on the fund financial statements:

	<u>Amount</u>
<u>Transfers from General Fund to:</u>	
Nonmajor Special Revenue fund:	
District Managed Student Activities	\$ <u>90,000</u>

Transfers are used to (1) move revenues from the fund that statute or budget requires to collect them to the fund that statute or budget requires to expend them, and (2) use unrestricted revenues collected in the general fund to finance various programs accounted for in other funds in accordance with budgetary authorizations.

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

- B. Interfund balances at June 30, 2024, as reported on the fund financial statements, consist of the following interfund loans receivable/payable:

<u>Receivable Fund</u>	<u>Payable Funds</u>	<u>Amount</u>
General Fund	Nonmajor Special Revenue Funds:	
	IDEA, Part B	\$ 29,371
	Title I Disadvantaged Children	50,558
	Title IV Student Support and Academic Enrichment	17,913
	Supporting Effective Instruction	<u>8,977</u>
Total Interfund Loans Receivable/Payable		<u>\$ 106,819</u>

The primary purpose of the interfund loans was to cover the negative cash balances at fiscal year-end in the nonmajor governmental funds. The interfund balances will be repaid once the anticipated revenues are received. All interfund balances are expected to be repaid within one year.

- C. Loans due from and to other funds at June 30, 2024, as reported on the fund financial statements, consist of the following:

	<u>Amount</u>
<u>Loans due to the General Fund from:</u>	
Nonmajor Special Revenue fund:	
ESSER	\$ <u>384,803</u>

The loans due to the general fund from the ESSER fund (a nonmajor governmental fund) represent long-term advances that have not been repaid by June 30, 2024. Amounts due from/to other funds between governmental funds are eliminated on the government-wide financial statements.

Interfund balances between governmental funds have been eliminated on the statement of net position.

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**NOTE 6 - PROPERTY TAXES**

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

Property taxes include amounts levied against all real property and public utility property. Real property tax revenues received in calendar year 2024 represent the collection of calendar year 2023 taxes. Real property taxes received in calendar year 2024 were levied after April 1, 2023, on the assessed values as of January 1, 2023, the lien date. Assessed values for real property taxes are established by State statute at 35 percent of appraised fair value. Real property taxes are payable annually or semiannually. If paid annually, payment is due December 31; if paid semiannually, the first payment is due December 31, with the remainder payable by June 20. Under certain circumstances, State statute permits alternate payment dates to be established. Public utility property tax revenues received in calendar year 2024 represent the collection of calendar year 2023 taxes. Public utility real and personal property taxes received in calendar year 2024 became a lien on December 31, 2022, were levied after April 1, 2023, and are collected with real property taxes. Public utility real property is assessed at 35 percent of true value; public utility tangible personal property is currently assessed at varying percentages of true value.

The District receives property taxes from Lorain and Erie Counties. The County Auditors periodically advance to the District its portion of the taxes collected. Second-half real property tax payments collected by the County by June 30, 2024, are available to finance fiscal year 2024 operations. The amount available as an advance at June 30, 2024 and 2023 were:

	<u>June 30, 2024</u>	<u>June 30, 2023</u>
Major governmental fund:		
General fund	\$ 635,391	\$ 1,302,404
Nonmajor governmental funds:		
Bond retirement fund	74,763	146,421
Permanent improvement fund	42,203	87,801

The amount of second-half real property taxes available for advance at fiscal year-end can vary based on the date the tax bills are sent.

Accrued property taxes receivable includes real property, public utility property and delinquent tangible personal property taxes which are measurable as of June 30, 2024 and for which there is an enforceable legal claim. Although total property tax collections for the next fiscal year are measurable, only the amount of real property taxes available as an advance at June 30 was levied to finance current fiscal year operations and is reported as revenue at fiscal year-end. The portion of the receivable not levied to finance current fiscal year operations is offset by a credit to deferred inflows.

On the accrual basis of accounting, collectible delinquent property taxes have been recorded as a receivable and revenue, while on a modified accrual basis of accounting the revenue has been reported as a deferred inflow.

The assessed values upon which the fiscal year 2024 taxes were collected are:

	2023 Second Half Collections		2024 First Half Collections	
	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Agricultural/residential and other real estate	\$ 359,192,760	86.21	\$ 364,063,510	86.24
Public utility personal	57,479,700	13.79	58,088,650	13.76
Total	<u>\$ 416,672,460</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>\$ 422,152,160</u>	<u>100.00</u>
Tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed valuation	\$ 53.76		\$ 53.94	

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**NOTE 7 - RECEIVABLES**

- A. Receivables at June 30, 2024 consisted of property taxes, payments in lieu of taxes, accounts (billings for user charged services and student fees), accrued interest, intergovernmental grants and entitlements, and leases. All receivables are considered collectible in full due to the ability to foreclose for the nonpayment of taxes, the stable condition of State programs, and the current year guarantee of federal funds. A list of the principal items of receivables reported on the statement of net position follows:

**Governmental activities:**

Property taxes	\$ 18,316,438
Payments in lieu of taxes	13,322
Accounts	79,201
Accrued interest	89,518
Intergovernmental	821,497
Lease	292,120

Receivables have been disaggregated on the face of the financial statements. All receivables, except property taxes, the OFCC intergovernmental receivable, and lease receivable are expected to be collected within one year. Property taxes, although ultimately collectible, include some portion of delinquencies that will not be collected within one year. The OFCC intergovernmental receivable of \$200,080 will be collected over the duration of the construction project. The lease receivable of \$292,120 will be collected over the duration of the lease agreement.

**B. Lease Receivable**

The District has entered into a site lease agreement for a cell tower on November 19, 2015. The District began receiving lease payments in February 2017. The lease has an initial term of five years, and the lease payments are \$11,400 annually. The agreement will automatically extend for five additional five-year terms, unless the District provides notice of intent to terminate within six months prior to the end of the current term. Per the agreement, the payments will increase by 10% on the first day of each new five-year extension term. Payments are made monthly and are reported in the general fund.

The District has entered into a farm land lease agreement with Martin Whitney and Lynn Fannin on December 12, 2022. The lease has a term of three years and commenced on February 1, 2023. The lease payments are \$135 per acre. Payments are made monthly and are reported in the general fund.

The District is reporting leases receivable of \$292,120 in the general fund at June 30, 2024. For fiscal year 2024, the District recognized cash-basis interest revenue of \$5,981 and lease revenue of \$13,039.

The following is a schedule of future lease payments under the agreement:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
2025	\$ 13,239	\$ 5,781	\$ 19,020
2026	13,507	5,513	19,020
2027	7,718	5,240	12,958
2028	8,720	5,073	13,793
2029	8,897	4,897	13,794
2030 - 2034	50,542	21,647	72,189
2035 - 2039	63,430	15,978	79,408
2040 - 2044	78,429	8,920	87,349
2045 - 2047	47,638	1,321	48,959
Total	<u>\$ 292,120</u>	<u>\$ 74,370</u>	<u>\$ 366,490</u>

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
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NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**NOTE 8 - CAPITAL ASSETS**

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

	Balance <u>June 30, 2023</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Deductions</u>	Balance <u>June 30, 2024</u>
<b>Governmental activities:</b>				
<i>Capital assets, not being depreciated/amortized:</i>				
Land	\$ 851,565	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 851,565
Total capital assets, not being depreciated/amortized	<u>851,565</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>851,565</u>
<i>Capital assets, being depreciated/amortized:</i>				
Land improvements	1,953,898	118,747	-	2,072,645
Buildings and improvements	35,347,966	18,975	-	35,366,941
Furniture and equipment	2,953,825	292,921	-	3,246,746
Vehicles	2,947,481	550,712	-	3,498,193
Intangible right to use:				
Leased equipment	312,817	-	-	312,817
Leased software	<u>111,066</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>111,066</u>
Total capital assets, being depreciated/amortized	<u>43,627,053</u>	<u>981,355</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>44,608,408</u>
<i>Less: accumulated depreciation/ amortization</i>				
Land improvements	(1,396,421)	(64,602)	-	(1,461,023)
Buildings and improvements	(7,466,885)	(638,335)	-	(8,105,220)
Furniture and equipment	(1,761,942)	(201,069)	-	(1,963,011)
Vehicles	(2,015,963)	(204,154)	-	(2,220,117)
Intangible right to use:				
Leased equipment	(62,563)	(62,564)	-	(125,127)
Leased software	<u>(29,128)</u>	<u>(36,956)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(66,084)</u>
Total accumulated depreciation/ amortization	<u>(12,732,902)</u>	<u>(1,207,680)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(13,940,582)</u>
Governmental activities capital assets, net	<u>\$ 31,745,716</u>	<u>\$ (226,325)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 31,519,391</u>



**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**NOTE 8 - CAPITAL ASSETS - (Continued)**

Depreciation/amortization expense was charged to governmental activities as follows:

Instruction:	
Regular	\$ 435,072
Special	139,133
Vocational	15,889
Support services:	
Pupil	65,589
Instructional staff	2,374
Administration	87,212
Fiscal	15,986
Operations and maintenance	45,661
Pupil transportation	250,428
Central	90,049
Extracurricular activities	36,741
Food service operations	23,546
Total depreciation expense	<u>\$ 1,207,680</u>

**NOTE 9 - LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS**

The changes in the District's long-term obligations during fiscal year 2024 were as follows.

	Balance <u>June 30, 2023</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Reductions</u>	Balance <u>June 30, 2024</u>	Amounts Due in <u>One Year</u>
<b>Governmental activities:</b>					
Energy conservation improvement bonds	\$ 170,000	\$ -	\$ (70,000)	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
School improvement bonds, series 2019A	7,930,000	-	(360,000)	7,570,000	365,000
School improvement bonds, series 2019B	14,500,000	-	(10,000)	14,490,000	10,000
Lease payable	245,509	-	(57,992)	187,517	60,193
SBITA payable	13,336	-	(6,544)	6,792	6,792
Net pension liability	18,929,887	159,693	(441,540)	18,648,040	-
Net OPEB liability	1,132,430	221,776	-	1,354,206	-
Compensated absences	<u>1,230,873</u>	<u>279,336</u>	<u>(90,486)</u>	<u>1,419,723</u>	<u>135,882</u>
Unamortized premium on bonds	<u>942,773</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(34,945)</u>	<u>907,828</u>	<u>-</u>
Total governmental activities long-term liabilities	<u>\$ 45,094,808</u>	<u>\$ 660,805</u>	<u>\$ (1,036,562)</u>	<u>\$ 44,684,106</u>	<u>\$ 677,867</u>

Energy Conservation Improvement Bonds - Series 2010: On September 1, 2010, the District issued \$1,060,000 in energy conservation improvement bonds. The proceeds of these bonds were used for building improvements intended to increase the energy efficiency of the District's buildings. These bonds bear an annual interest rate of 5.2% and are scheduled to mature in fiscal year 2025. Payments of principal and interest relating to these bonds are recorded as expenditures in the general fund.

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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**NOTE 9 - LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS - (Continued)**

These bonds are considered Qualified School Construction Bonds (QSCBs), which makes them a taxable direct payment special obligation. For the QSCBs, the District receives a direct payment subsidy from the United States Treasury equal to 100% of the lesser of the interest payments on the bonds or the federal tax credits that would otherwise have been available to the holders of the bonds. The balance of these bonds at June 30, 2024 in the amount of \$100,000 has been included on the statement of net position.

The following is a summary of the District's future annual debt service requirements to maturity for the energy conservation improvement bonds:

Year Ending June 30,	<u>Energy Conservation Improvement Bonds - Series 2010</u>		
	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
2025	\$ 100,000	\$ 5,200	\$ 105,200

*School Improvement Bonds*

The District issued \$23,850,000 in school facilities improvement general obligation bonds during fiscal year 2020. These bonds were issued for general governmental activities, specifically; construction and/or renovation of school buildings. These general obligation bonds are direct obligations of the District for which its full faith, credit and resources are pledged and payable from taxes levied on all taxable property in the district. Accordingly, such unmatured obligations of the District are accounted for on the statement of net position. Payments of principal and interest relating to these bonds are recorded as expenditures in the District's bond retirement fund (a nonmajor governmental fund).

*School Improvement Bonds, Series 2019A (General Obligation)* - On July 11, 2019, the District issued current interest bonds in the amount of \$9,310,000, plus net original premium \$627,688, less bond issue costs of \$140,904. Interest payments on the bond are due May 1 and November 1 of each year, beginning November 1, 2019 (interest rate 2.0% to 4.0%). The bonds mature on November 1, 2047.

*School Improvement Bonds, Series 2019B (General Obligation)* - On October 15, 2019, the District issued current interest bonds in the amount of \$14,540,000, plus net original premium \$449,820, less bond issue costs of \$212,844. Interest payments on the bonds are due May 1 and November 1 of each year, beginning November 1, 2019 (interest rate 2.0% to 4.0%). The bonds mature on November 1, 2054.

At June 30, 2024, \$1,007,832 in bond proceeds remained unspent.

The following is a summary of the future debt service requirements to maturity for the general obligation bonds:

Fiscal Year Ending June 30,	<u>Series 2019A GO Bonds</u>			<u>Series 2019B GO Bonds</u>		
	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
2025	\$ 365,000	\$ 283,150	\$ 648,150	\$ 10,000	\$ 515,250	\$ 525,250
2026	380,000	268,250	648,250	10,000	514,950	524,950
2027	395,000	252,750	647,750	10,000	514,550	524,550
2028	410,000	236,650	646,650	15,000	514,050	529,050
2029	425,000	219,950	644,950	15,000	513,450	528,450
2030-2034	2,410,000	823,650	3,233,650	70,000	2,558,950	2,628,950
2035-2039	1,390,000	408,250	1,798,250	1,640,000	2,425,350	4,065,350
2040-2044	945,000	206,775	1,151,775	2,730,000	1,961,750	4,691,750
2045-2049	850,000	52,200	902,200	3,585,000	1,348,050	4,933,050
2050-2054	-	-	-	5,255,000	575,925	5,830,925
2055	-	-	-	1,150,000	17,250	1,167,250
Total	<u>\$ 7,570,000</u>	<u>\$ 2,751,625</u>	<u>\$ 10,321,625</u>	<u>\$ 14,490,000</u>	<u>\$ 11,459,525</u>	<u>\$ 25,949,525</u>

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**NOTE 9 - LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS - (Continued)**

*Legal Debt Margin* - The Ohio Revised Code provides that voted net general obligation debt of the District shall never exceed 9% of the total assessed valuation of the District. The Code further provides that unvoted indebtedness shall not exceed 1/10 of 1% of the property valuation of the District. The Code additionally states that unvoted indebtedness related to energy conservation debt shall not exceed 9/10 of 1% of the property valuation of the District. The assessed valuation used in determining the District's legal debt margin has been modified by House Bill 530 which became effective March 30, 2006. In accordance with House Bill 530, the assessed valuation used in the District's legal debt margin calculation excluded tangible personal property used in business, telephone or telegraph property, interexchange telecommunications company property and personal property owned or leased by a railroad company and used in railroad operations. The effects of these debt limitations at June 30, 2024, are a voted debt margin of \$16,715,668 (including available funds of \$781,974) and an unvoted debt margin of \$422,152.

*Lease Payable* - In a prior fiscal year, the District entered into a lease for copier equipment. Lease payments have been reclassified and are reflected as debt service expenditures in the basic financial statements.

The District entered into a copier lease in March 2022 for a term of 60 months, commencing July 1, 2022, with a maturity date of June 30, 2027. Payments are made annually each July and are being paid from the permanent improvement fund (a nonmajor governmental fund).

Principal and interest requirements to retire the lease payable are as follows:

Fiscal Year Ending June 30,	Lease Payable		
	Principal	Interest	Total
2025	\$ 60,193	\$ 7,115	\$ 67,308
2026	62,477	4,831	67,308
2027	64,847	2,461	67,308
Total	<u>\$ 187,517</u>	<u>\$ 14,407</u>	<u>\$ 201,924</u>

*Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements (SBITA) Payable* - The District entered into a SBITA transaction during fiscal year 2023. The future SBITA payments were discounted based on the interest rate implicit in the agreement. The discount is being amortized using the interest method over the life of the subscription. SBITA payments have been reclassified and are reflected as debt service expenditures in the basic financial statements.

The District entered into the SBITA payable on August 1, 2022 for a term of 36 months with a maturity of July 31, 2025. Payments are made annually and are being paid from the general fund.

Calendar Year	SBITA Payable		
	Principal	Interest	Total
2025	<u>\$ 6,792</u>	<u>\$ 258</u>	<u>\$ 7,050</u>

*Net Pension Liability*: See Notes 12 for details on the District's net pension liability. The District pays obligations related to employee compensation from the fund benefitting from their service, which is primarily the general fund.

*Net OPEB Liability*: See Note 13 for details on the District's net OPEB liability. The District pays obligations related to employee compensation from the fund benefitting from their service, which is primarily the general fund.

*Compensated Absences*: Compensated absences are paid primarily from the general fund and the food service fund (a nonmajor governmental fund).

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**NOTE 10 - COMPENSATED ABSENCES**

Employees earn vacation at rates specified under various labor agreements and based on credited service. Teachers and some administrators do not earn vacation time. Administrators, clerical, technical, and maintenance and operations employees with one or more years of service are entitled to vacation ranging from five to twenty days. Employees with less than one year of service earn one vacation day per month worked, not to exceed five days. Unused vacation is not cumulative to the next year.

All employees are entitled to a sick leave credit equal to one and one-quarter days for each month of service (earned on a pro rata basis for less-than-full-time employees). This sick leave will either be absorbed by time off due to illness or injury or, within certain limitations, be paid to the employee upon retirement. The amount paid to an employee upon retirement is limited to one-quarter of the accumulated sick leave to a maximum payout of 75 days for all employees after three years of service with the District.

**NOTE 11 - RISK MANAGEMENT**

**A. Comprehensive**

The District is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts, theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets, errors and omissions, injuries to employees, and natural disasters. During fiscal year 2024, the District contracted with American Family Insurance through Fitzgibbons, Arnold & Co. for professional liability insurance, fleet insurance, and insurance coverage for property, inland marine and employee theft. Coverages provided and deductibles are as follows:

Building and Contents - replacement cost (\$2,500 deductible)	\$65,686,475	value
Inland marine coverage (\$250 deductible)	1,213,223	value
Automobile liability (\$1,000 deductible for comprehensive)	1,000,000	limit
Uninsured Motorists (no deductible)	1,000,000	limit
Employee theft	100,000	limit

Settled claims have not exceeded this commercial coverage in any of the past three years. There have been no significant reductions in coverage from fiscal year 2023.

**B. Employee Health and Dental**

The District has contracted with the Lake Erie Regional Council of Governments (LERC) to provide employee medical, dental and vision benefits since December 1988. The risk of loss transfers to the pool upon payment of the premium. The District provides medical, dental and vision benefits to employees who work more than 30 hours a week. Employees who work between 15-30 hours may choose to purchase medical insurance at a higher premium. The premium and coverages vary by employee depending on plan type chosen, marital status and hours worked.

**C. Workers' Compensation Rating Program**

For fiscal year 2024, the District participated in a Workers' Compensation Group Rating Program (GRP). The intent of the GRP is to achieve the benefit of a reduced premium for the District by virtue of its grouping and representation with other participants in the GRP. The workers' compensation experience of the participating school districts is tiered into groups based upon past workers' compensation experience. Within each tiered group, a common premium rate is applied to all school districts within that group. Each participant pays its workers' compensation premium to the state based on the rate for the GRP rather than its individual rate. Total savings are then calculated and each participant's individual performance is compared to the overall savings percentage of their tiered group. Participation in the GRP is limited to school districts that can meet the GRP's selection criteria. The firm of Sheakley Uniservice, Inc. provides administrative, cost control and actuarial services to the GRP.

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**NOTE 12 - 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 represents a liability or asset to employees for pensions and OPEB, respectively.

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

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

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

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

The remainder of this note includes the required pension disclosures. See Note 13 for the required OPEB disclosures.

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

***Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)***

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

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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**NOTE 12 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)**

Age and service requirements for retirement are as follows:

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

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

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

An individual whose benefit effective date is before April 1, 2018, is eligible for a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) on the first anniversary date of the benefit. Beginning April 1, 2018, new benefit recipients must wait until the fourth anniversary of their benefit for COLA eligibility. The COLA is added each year to the base benefit amount on the anniversary date of the benefit. A three-year COLA suspension was in effect for all benefit recipients for the years 2018, 2019, and 2020. Upon resumption of the COLA, it will be indexed to the percentage increase in the CPI-W, not to exceed 2.5% and with a floor of 0%. In 2023, the Board of Trustees approved a 2.5% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for eligible retirees and beneficiaries in 2024.

Funding Policy - Plan members are required to contribute 10.00% of their annual covered salary and the District is required to contribute 14.00% of annual covered payroll. The contribution requirements of plan members and employers are established and may be amended by the SERS' Retirement Board up to statutory maximum amounts of 10.00% for plan members and 14.00% for employers. The Retirement Board, acting with the advice of the actuary, allocates the employer contribution rate among four of the System's funds (Pension Trust Fund, Death Benefit Fund, Medicare B Fund, and Health Care Fund). For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, the allocation to pension, death benefits, and Medicare B was 14.00%. For fiscal year 2024, the Retirement Board did not allocate any employer contribution to the Health Care Fund.

The District's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$485,877 for fiscal year 2024. Of this amount, \$75,769 is reported as intergovernmental payable.

***Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)***

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

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

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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**NOTE 12 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)**

The DB plan offers an annual retirement allowance based on final average salary multiplied by a percentage that varies based on years of service. Effective August 1, 2015, the calculation is 2.20% of final average salary for the five highest years of earnings multiplied by all years of service. In April 2017, the Retirement Board made the decision to reduce COLA granted on or after July 1, 2017, to 0 percent upon a determination by its actuary that it was necessary to preserve the fiscal integrity of the retirement system. Benefit recipients' base benefit and past cost-of living increases are not affected by this change. Effective July 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 of their member contributions and 11.09% of the 14% employer contributions into an investment account. The member determines how to allocate the member and employer money among various investment choices offered by STRS. The remaining 2.91% of the 14% employer rate is allocated to the defined benefit unfunded liability. A member is eligible to receive a retirement benefit at age 50 and termination of employment. The member may elect to receive a lifetime monthly annuity or a lump sum withdrawal.

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

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

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

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

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NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**NOTE 12 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)**

The District's contractually required contribution to STRS was \$1,350,333 for fiscal year 2024. Of this amount, \$230,796 is reported as intergovernmental payable.

***Net 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 District's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the District's share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the contributions of all participating entities.

Following is information related to the proportionate share and pension expense:

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Proportion of the net pension liability prior measurement date	0.07857080%	0.06603727%	
Proportion of the net pension liability current measurement date	<u>0.07980090%</u>	<u>0.06611873%</u>	
Change in proportionate share	<u>0.00123010%</u>	<u>0.00008146%</u>	
Proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 4,409,413	\$ 14,238,627	\$ 18,648,040
Pension expense	\$ 493,568	\$ 1,016,048	\$ 1,509,616

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

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Deferred outflows of resources</b>			
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 189,527	\$ 519,110	\$ 708,637
Changes of assumptions	31,235	1,172,628	1,203,863
Difference between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions/ change in proportionate share	69,872	80,631	150,503
Contributions subsequent to the measurement date	<u>485,877</u>	<u>1,350,333</u>	<u>1,836,210</u>
Total deferred outflows of resources	<u>\$ 776,511</u>	<u>\$ 3,122,702</u>	<u>\$ 3,899,213</u>



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**NOTE 12 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)**

	SERS	STRS	Total
<b>Deferred inflows of resources</b>			
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ -	\$ 31,595	\$ 31,595
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	61,979	42,675	104,654
Changes of assumptions	-	882,652	882,652
Difference between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions/ change in proportionate share	30,590	243,803	274,393
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>\$ 92,569</u>	<u>\$ 1,200,725</u>	<u>\$ 1,293,294</u>

\$1,836,210 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pension resulting from District 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:

	SERS	STRS	Total
Fiscal Year Ending June 30:			
2025	\$ 30,346	\$ (243,086)	\$ (212,740)
2026	(139,684)	(511,993)	(651,677)
2027	304,119	1,408,681	1,712,800
2028	3,284	(81,958)	(78,674)
Total	<u>\$ 198,065</u>	<u>\$ 571,644</u>	<u>\$ 769,709</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 terminations). Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual review and potential modifications, as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future.

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

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

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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**NOTE 12 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)**

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

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

In 2023, mortality rates were based on the PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weighted Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 94.20% for males and set forward 2 years and adjusted 81.35% for females. Mortality among disabled members were based upon the PUB-2010 General Disabled Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 5 years and adjusted 103.3% for males and set forward 3 years and adjusted 106.8% for females. Future improvement in mortality rates is reflected by applying the MP-2020 projection scale generationally.

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

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

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. Ohio Revised Code Section 3309.15 and the Board-adopted Investment Policy govern investment activity at SERS. A forecasted rate of inflation serves as the baseline for the return expectation. Various real return premiums over the baseline inflation rate have been established for each asset class. The long-term expected nominal rate of return has been determined by calculating a weighted average of the expected real return premiums for each asset class, adding the projected inflation rate, and adding the expected return from rebalancing uncorrelated asset classes.

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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**NOTE 12 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)**

The target allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class as of June 30, 2023 is summarized in the following table:

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

**Discount Rate** - Total pension liability for 2023 was calculated using the discount rate of 7.00%. 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 of fiscal year 2023 was 14%. Projected inflows from investment earnings were calculated using the long-term assumed investment rate of return, 7.00%. Based on those assumptions, the plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefits to determine the total pension liability. 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%.

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

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 6,508,065	\$ 4,409,413	\$ 2,641,694

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**NOTE 12 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)**

***Actuarial Assumptions - STRS***

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

	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022
Inflation	2.50%	2.50%
Projected salary increases	Varies by service from 2.50% to 8.50%	Varies by service from 2.50% to 8.50%
Investment rate of return	7.00%, net of investment expenses, including inflation	7.00%, net of investment expenses, including inflation
Discount rate of return	7.00%	7.00%
Payroll increases	3.00%	3.00%
Cost-of-living adjustments (COLA)	0.00%	0.00%

For the June 30, 2023 actuarial valuation, post-retirement mortality rates are based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table, adjusted 110% for males, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020. Pre-retirement mortality rates are based on Pub-2010 Teachers Employee Table adjusted 95% for females, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020. Post-retirement disabled mortality rates are based on Pub-2010 Teachers Disabled Annuitant Table projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020.

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

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 Real Rate of Return **
Domestic Equity	26.00 %	6.60 %
International Equity	22.00	6.80
Alternatives	19.00	7.38
Fixed Income	22.00	1.75
Real Estate	10.00	5.75
Liquidity Reserves	1.00	1.00
Total	100.00 %	

\* Final target weights reflected at October 1, 2022.

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**NOTE 12 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)**

\*\*10-Year annualized geometric nominal returns, which include the real rate of return and inflation of 2.25% and is net of investment expenses. Over a 30-year period, STRS' 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% 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 the rates described previously. For this purpose, only employer contributions that are intended to fund benefits of current plan members and their beneficiaries are included. Based on those assumptions, STRS' fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current plan members as of June 30, 2023. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments of 7.00% was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability as of June 30, 2023.

**Sensitivity of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate** - The following table represents the net pension liability as of June 30, 2023, calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 7.00%, as well as what the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.00%) or one percentage point higher (8.00%) than the current assumption:

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 21,895,857	\$ 14,238,627	\$ 7,762,706

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

**NOTE 13 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS**

***Net OPEB Liability/Asset***

See Note 12 for a description of the net OPEB liability (asset).

***Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)***

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

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**NOTE 13 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)**

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

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

Funding Policy - State statute permits SERS to fund the health care benefits through employer contributions. Each year, after the allocation for statutorily required pensions and benefits, the Retirement Board may allocate the remainder of the employer contribution of 14% of covered payroll to the Health Care Fund in accordance with the funding policy. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, SERS did not allocate any employer contributions to post-employment health care. An additional health care surcharge on employers is collected for employees earning less than an actuarially determined minimum compensation amount, pro-rated if less than a full year of service credit was earned. For fiscal year 2024, this amount was \$30,000. Statutes provide that no employer shall pay a health care surcharge greater than 2% of that employer's SERS-covered payroll; nor may SERS collect in aggregate more than 1.5% of the total statewide SERS-covered payroll for the health care surcharge. For fiscal year 2024, the District's surcharge obligation was \$61,379.

The surcharge added to the allocated portion of the 14% employer contribution rate is the total amount assigned to the Health Care Fund. The District's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$61,379 for fiscal year 2024. Of this amount, \$61,379 is reported as intergovernmental payable.

***Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)***

Plan Description - The State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio (STRS) administers a cost-sharing Health Plan administered for eligible retirees who participated in the defined benefit or combined pension plans offered by STRS. Ohio law authorizes STRS to offer this plan. Benefits include hospitalization, physicians' fees, prescription drugs and partial reimbursement of monthly Medicare Part B premiums. Health care premiums were reduced by a Medicare Part B premium credit beginning in 2023. The Plan is included in the report of STRS which can be obtained by visiting [www.strsoh.org](http://www.strsoh.org) or by calling (888) 227-7877.

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

***Net OPEB Liabilities/Assets, 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/asset used to calculate the net OPEB liability/asset was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The District's proportion of the net OPEB liability/asset was based on the District's share of contributions to the respective retirement systems relative to the contributions of all participating entities.

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NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**NOTE 13 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)**

Following is information related to the proportionate share and OPEB expense:

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Proportion of the net OPEB liability/asset prior measurement date	0.08065680%	0.06603727%	
Proportion of the net OPEB liability/asset current measurement date	<u>0.08220040%</u>	<u>0.06611873%</u>	
Change in proportionate share	<u>0.00154360%</u>	<u>0.00008146%</u>	
Proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$ 1,354,206	\$ -	\$ 1,354,206
Proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	\$ -	\$ (1,285,918)	\$ (1,285,918)
OPEB expense	\$ (150,288)	\$ (75,990)	\$ (226,278)

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

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Deferred outflows of resources</b>			
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 2,820	\$ 2,008	\$ 4,828
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on OPEB plan investments	10,493	2,295	12,788
Changes of assumptions	457,894	189,437	647,331
Difference between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions/change in proportionate share	126,095	1,029	127,124
Contributions subsequent to the measurement date	<u>61,379</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>61,379</u>
Total deferred outflows of resources	<u>\$ 658,681</u>	<u>\$ 194,769</u>	<u>\$ 853,450</u>
	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Deferred inflows of resources</b>			
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 698,410	\$ 196,139	\$ 894,549
Changes of assumptions	384,605	848,431	1,233,036
Difference between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions/change in proportionate share	<u>92,128</u>	<u>4,606</u>	<u>96,734</u>
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>\$ 1,175,143</u>	<u>\$ 1,049,176</u>	<u>\$ 2,224,319</u>

\$61,379 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB resulting from District contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net OPEB liability/asset in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**NOTE 13 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)**

Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in OPEB expense as follows:

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Fiscal Year Ending June 30:			
2025	\$ (205,320)	\$ (378,987)	\$ (584,307)
2026	(174,847)	(174,820)	(349,667)
2027	(96,669)	(66,299)	(162,968)
2028	(59,809)	(89,470)	(149,279)
2029	(50,956)	(82,015)	(132,971)
Thereafter	<u>9,760</u>	<u>(62,816)</u>	<u>(53,056)</u>
Total	<u>\$ (577,841)</u>	<u>\$ (854,407)</u>	<u>\$ (1,432,248)</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.



**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**NOTE 13 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)**

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

Wage inflation:

Current measurement date	2.40%
Prior measurement date	2.40%

Future salary increases, including inflation:

Current measurement date	3.25% to 13.58%
Prior measurement date	3.25% to 13.58%

Investment rate of return:

Current measurement date	7.00% net of investment expense, including inflation
Prior measurement date	7.00% net of investment expense, including inflation

Municipal bond index rate:

Current measurement date	3.86%
Prior measurement date	3.69%

Single equivalent interest rate, net of plan investment expense,  
including price inflation:

Current measurement date	4.27%
Prior measurement date	4.08%

Medical trend assumption:

Current measurement date	6.75 to 4.40%
Prior measurement date	7.00 to 4.40%

In 2023, the following mortality assumptions were used:

**Healthy Retirees** - PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weighted Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 94.20% for males and set forward 2 years and adjusted 81.35% for females

**Disabled Retirees** - PUB-2010 General Disabled Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 5 years and adjusted 103.3% for males and set forward 3 years and adjusted 106.8% for females.

**Contingent Survivors** - PUB-2010 General Amount Weighted Below Median Contingent Survivor mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 105.5% for males and adjusted 122.5% for females.

**Actives** - PUB-2010 General Amount Weighted Below Median Employee mortality table.

**Mortality Projection** - Mortality rates are projected using a fully generational projection with Scale MP-2020.

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

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

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**NOTE 13 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)**

The long-term expected rate of return is reviewed as part of the regular experience studies prepared every five years for SERS. The most recent five-year experience study was performed for the period covering 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%, 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.

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

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

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

**Discount Rate** - The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability at June 30, 2023, was 4.27%. The discount rate used to measure total OPEB liability prior to June 30, 2023, was 4.08%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions will be made from members and the System at the contribution rate of 1.50% of projected covered payroll each year, which includes a 1.50% payroll surcharge and no contributions from the basic benefits plan. Based on these assumptions, the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position is 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% at June 30, 2023 and 3.69% at June 30, 2022.

**Sensitivity of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate and Changes in the Health Care Cost Trend Rates** - The net OPEB liability is sensitive to changes in the discount rate and the health care cost trend rate. The following table presents the net OPEB liability, what the net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1 percentage point lower (3.27%) and higher (5.27%) than the current discount rate (4.27%). Also shown is what the 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 (6.75% decreasing to 4.40%).

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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**NOTE 13 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)**

	<u>1% Decrease</u>	<u>Current Discount Rate</u>	<u>1% Increase</u>
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$ 1,731,063	\$ 1,354,206	\$ 1,057,040
		<u>Current Trend Rate</u>	
	<u>1% Decrease</u>	<u>1% Increase</u>	
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$ 994,889	\$ 1,354,206	\$ 1,830,351

***Actuarial Assumptions - STRS***

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

	June 30, 2023		June 30, 2022	
Inflation	2.50%		2.50%	
Projected salary increases	Varies by service from 2.50% to 8.50%		Varies by service from 2.50% to 8.50%	
Investment rate of return	7.00%, net of investment expenses, including inflation		7.00%, net of investment expenses, including inflation	
Payroll increases	3.00%		3.00%	
Cost-of-living adjustments (COLA)	0.00%		0.00%	
Discount rate of return	7.00%		7.00%	
Blended discount rate of return	N/A		N/A	
Health care cost trends				
	Initial	Ultimate	Initial	Ultimate
Medical				
Pre-Medicare	7.50%	4.14%	7.50%	3.94%
Medicare	-10.94%	4.14%	-68.78%	3.94%
Prescription Drug				
Pre-Medicare	-11.95%	4.14%	9.00%	3.94%
Medicare	1.33%	4.14%	-5.47%	3.94%

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

For the June 30, 2023 actuarial valuation, for healthy retirees the post-retirement mortality rates are based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table, adjusted 110% for males, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020; pre-retirement mortality rates are based on Pub-2010 Teachers Employee Table adjusted 95% for females, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020. For disabled retirees, mortality rates are based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Disabled Annuitant Table projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020.

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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**NOTE 13 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)**

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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

**Discount Rate** - The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability was 7.00% 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 those assumptions, the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current plan members as of June 30, 2023. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on health care fund investments of 7.00% was applied to all periods of projected health care costs to determine the total OPEB liability as of June 30, 2023.

**Sensitivity of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Asset to Changes in the Discount and Health Care Cost Trend Rate** - The following table represents the net OPEB asset as of June 30, 2023, calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 7.00%, as well as what the net OPEB asset would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.00%) or one percentage point higher (8.00%) than the current assumption. Also shown is the net OPEB asset as if it were calculated using health care cost trend rates that are one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current health care cost trend rates.

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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**NOTE 13 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)**

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	\$ 1,088,361	\$ 1,285,918	\$ 1,457,969
	1% Decrease	Current Trend Rate	1% Increase
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	\$ 1,465,953	\$ 1,285,918	\$ 1,069,069

**NOTE 14 - CONTINGENCIES**

**A. Grants**

The District receives significant financial assistance from numerous federal, State and local agencies in the form of grants. The disbursement of funds received under these programs generally requires compliance with terms and conditions specified in the grant agreements and are subject to audit by the grantor agencies. Any disallowed claims resulting from such audits could become a liability of the District. However, in the opinion of management, any such disallowed claims will not have a material effect on the financial position of the District.

**B. Litigation**

The District is not party to legal proceedings which, in the opinion of District management, will have a material effect, if any, on the financial condition of the District.

**C. Contingent Liabilities**

For several years, the District has been dealing with significant property tax disputes with Green Circle Growers, which owns and operates a large greenhouse complex in the District. Green Circle Grower's challenged the valuation/classification of its property dating back to tax year 2015. In March of 2021 the Ninth District Court of Appeals confirmed a 2018 Ohio Board of Tax Appeals decision in favor of Green Circle Growers agreeing that their greenhouses are personal property/business fixtures and are not subject to property taxes. In response, Lorain County made an attempt at an appeal to the Ohio Supreme Court, but in July 2021 they decided not to hear the case. As a result, the District owes approximately in \$2.95 million in refunds to Green Circle Growers. This refund was repaid as a reduction of property tax receipts during calendar years 2022 and 2023.

**NOTE 15 - SET-ASIDES**

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

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

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**NOTE 15 - SET-ASIDES - (Continued)**

	<u>Capital Improvements</u>
Set-aside balance June 30, 2023	\$ -
Current year set-aside requirement	369,229
Current year offsets	<u>(688,620)</u>
Total	<u>\$ (319,391)</u>
Balance carried forward to fiscal year 2025	<u>\$ -</u>
Set-aside balance June 30, 2024	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>

**NOTE 16 - COMMITMENTS**

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

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Year-End</u>
General	\$ 559,403
Nonmajor Governmental Funds	<u>1,033,577</u>
Total	<u><u>\$ 1,592,980</u></u>

**NOTE 17 - 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 District received COVID-19 funding. The District will continue to spend available COVID-19 funding consistent with the applicable program guidelines.

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## REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION



**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO**

SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN  
FUND BALANCE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL (NON-GAAP BUDGETARY BASIS)  
GENERAL FUND  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>		<u>Actual Amounts</u>	<u>Variance with</u>
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>	<u>Budgetary</u>	<u>Final Budget -</u>
			<u>Basis</u>	<u>over (under)</u>
				<u>Actual Amounts</u>
Budgetary revenues and other financing sources	\$ 21,810,394	\$ 21,810,394	\$ 21,768,008	\$ (42,386)
Budgetary expenditures and other financing uses	22,668,943	23,268,943	22,579,942	(689,001)
Net change in fund balance	(858,549)	(1,458,549)	(811,934)	646,615
<b>Budgetary fund balance at beginning of year</b>	16,951,782	16,951,782	16,951,782	-
<b>Prior year encumbrances appropriated</b>	870,616	870,616	870,616	-
<b>Budgetary fund balance at end of year</b>	<u>\$ 16,963,849</u>	<u>\$ 16,363,849</u>	<u>\$ 17,010,464</u>	<u>\$ 646,615</u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO**

SCHEDULES OF THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

SCHEDULE OF THE DISTRICT'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF  
THE NET PENSION LIABILITY AND  
DISTRICT PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS  
SCHOOL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM (SERS) OF OHIO

LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS

<b>Fiscal Year (1)</b>	<b>District's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability</b>	<b>District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability</b>	<b>District's Covered Payroll</b>	<b>District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll</b>	<b>Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability</b>
2024	0.07980090%	\$ 4,409,413	\$ 3,385,936	130.23%	76.06%
2023	0.07857080%	4,249,720	2,984,071	142.41%	75.82%
2022	0.08034410%	2,964,464	2,839,486	104.40%	82.86%
2021	0.07465020%	4,937,522	2,648,557	186.42%	68.55%
2020	0.07713970%	4,615,404	2,612,481	176.67%	70.85%
2019	0.07935670%	4,544,905	2,244,133	202.52%	71.36%
2018	0.07830930%	4,678,808	2,672,007	175.10%	69.50%
2017	0.08007900%	5,861,044	2,603,150	225.15%	62.98%
2016	0.08357660%	4,768,962	2,516,093	189.54%	69.16%
2015	0.07803700%	3,949,408	2,267,590	174.17%	71.70%

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Contractually Required Contributions</b>	<b>Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contributions</b>	<b>Contribution Deficiency (Excess)</b>	<b>District's Covered Payroll</b>	<b>Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll</b>
2024	\$ 485,877	\$ (485,877)	\$ -	\$ 3,470,550	14.00%
2023	474,031	(474,031)	-	3,385,936	14.00%
2022	417,770	(417,770)	-	2,984,071	14.00%
2021	397,528	(397,528)	-	2,839,486	14.00%
2020	370,798	(370,798)	-	2,648,557	14.00%
2019	352,685	(352,685)	-	2,612,481	13.50%
2018	302,958	(302,958)	-	2,244,133	13.50%
2017	374,081	(374,081)	-	2,672,007	14.00%
2016	364,441	(364,441)	-	2,603,150	14.00%
2015	331,621	(331,621)	-	2,516,093	13.18%

(1) Amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the District's measurement date which is the prior year-end.

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO**

SCHEDULES OF THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

SCHEDULE OF THE DISTRICT'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF  
THE NET PENSION LIABILITY AND  
DISTRICT PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS  
STATE TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM (STRS) OF OHIO

LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS

<b>Fiscal Year (1)</b>	<b>District's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability</b>	<b>District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability</b>	<b>District's Covered Payroll</b>	<b>District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll</b>	<b>Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability</b>
2024	0.06611873%	\$ 14,238,627	\$ 9,031,686	157.65%	80.02%
2023	0.06603727%	14,680,167	8,574,136	171.21%	78.88%
2022	0.06703146%	8,570,574	8,400,700	102.02%	87.78%
2021	0.06595830%	15,959,562	7,948,936	200.78%	75.48%
2020	0.06782563%	14,999,230	7,968,693	188.23%	77.40%
2019	0.06916681%	15,208,229	8,102,743	187.69%	77.31%
2018	0.06924483%	16,449,258	7,655,679	214.86%	75.30%
2017	0.07018500%	23,493,035	7,327,414	320.62%	66.80%
2016	0.07201421%	19,902,621	7,727,629	257.55%	72.10%
2015	0.07151839%	17,395,748	7,307,208	238.06%	74.70%

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Contractually Required Contributions</b>	<b>Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contributions</b>	<b>Contribution Deficiency (Excess)</b>	<b>District's Covered Payroll</b>	<b>Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll</b>
2024	\$ 1,350,333	\$ (1,350,333)	\$ -	\$ 9,645,236	14.00%
2023	1,264,436	(1,264,436)	-	9,031,686	14.00%
2022	1,200,379	(1,200,379)	-	8,574,136	14.00%
2021	1,176,098	(1,176,098)	-	8,400,700	14.00%
2020	1,112,851	(1,112,851)	-	7,948,936	14.00%
2019	1,115,617	(1,115,617)	-	7,968,693	14.00%
2018	1,134,384	(1,134,384)	-	8,102,743	14.00%
2017	1,071,795	(1,071,795)	-	7,655,679	14.00%
2016	1,025,838	(1,025,838)	-	7,327,414	14.00%
2015	1,081,868	(1,081,868)	-	7,727,629	14.00%

(1) Amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the District's measurement date which is the prior year-end.

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO**

SCHEDULES OF THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

SCHEDULE OF THE DISTRICT'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF  
THE NET OPEB LIABILITY AND  
DISTRICT OPEB CONTRIBUTIONS  
SCHOOL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM (SERS) OF OHIO

LAST EIGHT AND TEN FISCAL YEARS

<b>Fiscal Year (1) (2)</b>	<b>District's Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability</b>	<b>District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability</b>	<b>District's Covered Payroll</b>	<b>District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll</b>	<b>Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total OPEB Liability</b>
2024	0.08220040%	\$ 1,354,206	\$ 3,385,936	40.00%	30.02%
2023	0.08065680%	1,132,430	2,984,071	37.95%	30.34%
2022	0.08303950%	1,571,591	2,839,486	55.35%	24.08%
2021	0.07788280%	1,692,648	2,648,557	63.91%	18.17%
2020	0.07925210%	1,993,024	2,612,481	76.29%	15.57%
2019	0.08049060%	2,233,027	2,244,133	99.51%	13.57%
2018	0.07954730%	2,134,841	2,672,007	79.90%	12.46%
2017	0.08125793%	2,316,152	2,603,150	88.97%	11.49%

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Contractually Required Contributions</b>	<b>Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contributions</b>	<b>Contribution Deficiency (Excess)</b>	<b>District's Covered Payroll</b>	<b>Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll</b>
2024	\$ 61,379	\$ (61,379)	\$ -	\$ 3,470,550	1.77%
2023	60,548	(60,548)	-	3,385,936	1.79%
2022	54,297	(54,297)	-	2,984,071	1.82%
2021	54,243	(54,243)	-	2,839,486	1.91%
2020	52,013	(52,013)	-	2,648,557	1.96%
2019	62,368	(62,368)	-	2,612,481	2.39%
2018	54,631	(54,631)	-	2,244,133	2.43%
2017	33,106	(33,106)	-	2,672,007	1.24%
2016	41,574	(41,574)	-	2,603,150	1.60%
2015	66,808	(66,808)	-	2,516,093	2.66%

(1) Amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the District's measurement date which is the prior year-end.

(2) Information prior to 2017 is not available. Schedule is intended to show information for 10 years.

Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO**

SCHEDULES OF THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

SCHEDULE OF THE DISTRICT'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF  
THE NET OPEB LIABILITY/(ASSET) AND  
DISTRICT OPEB CONTRIBUTIONS  
STATE TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM (STRS) OF OHIO

LAST EIGHT AND TEN FISCAL YEARS

<b>Fiscal Year (1) (2)</b>	<b>District's Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability/(Asset)</b>	<b>District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability/(Asset)</b>	<b>District's Covered Payroll</b>	<b>District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability/(Asset) as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll</b>	<b>Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total OPEB Liability/(Asset)</b>
2024	0.06611873%	\$ (1,285,918)	\$ 9,031,686	14.24%	168.52%
2023	0.06603727%	(1,709,924)	8,574,136	19.94%	230.73%
2022	0.06703146%	(1,413,303)	8,400,700	16.82%	174.73%
2021	0.06595830%	(1,159,217)	7,948,936	14.58%	182.10%
2020	0.06782563%	(1,123,355)	7,968,693	14.10%	174.70%
2019	0.06916681%	(1,111,440)	8,102,743	13.72%	176.00%
2018	0.06924483%	2,701,678	7,655,679	35.29%	47.10%
2017	0.07018500%	3,753,512	7,327,414	51.23%	37.30%

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Contractually Required Contributions</b>	<b>Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contributions</b>	<b>Contribution Deficiency (Excess)</b>	<b>District's Covered Payroll</b>	<b>Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll</b>
2024	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,645,236	0.00%
2023	-	-	-	9,031,686	0.00%
2022	-	-	-	8,574,136	0.00%
2021	-	-	-	8,400,700	0.00%
2020	-	-	-	7,948,936	0.00%
2019	-	-	-	7,968,693	0.00%
2018	-	-	-	8,102,743	0.00%
2017	-	-	-	7,655,679	0.00%
2016	-	-	-	7,327,414	0.00%
2015	-	-	-	7,727,629	0.00%

(1) Amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the District's measurement date which is the prior year-end.

(2) Information prior to 2017 is not available. Schedule is intended to show information for 10 years.

Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**NOTE 1 - BUDGETARY PROCESS**

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

The statement of revenue, expenditures and changes in fund balance - budget and actual (non-GAAP budgetary basis) presented for the general fund is presented on the budgetary basis to provide a meaningful comparison of actual results with the budget. The major differences between the budget basis and the GAAP basis are that:

- (a) Revenues and other financing sources are recorded when received in cash (budget basis) as opposed to when susceptible to accrual (GAAP basis);
- (b) Expenditures and other financing uses are recorded when paid in cash (budget basis) as opposed to when the liability is incurred (GAAP basis);
- (c) In order to determine compliance with Ohio law, and to reserve that portion of the applicable appropriation, total outstanding encumbrances (budget basis) are recorded as the equivalent of an expenditure, as opposed to assigned or committed fund balance for that portion of outstanding encumbrances not already recognized as an account payable (GAAP basis); and
- (d) Some funds are included in the general fund (GAAP basis), but have separate legally adopted budgets (budget basis).

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

**Net Change in Fund Balance**

	<u>General fund</u>
Budget basis	\$ (811,934)
Net adjustment for revenue and other financing sources accruals	(556,251)
Net adjustment for expenditure and other financing uses accruals	(393,455)
Funds budgeted elsewhere	34,471
Adjustments for encumbrances	<u>642,435</u>
GAAP Basis	<u>\$ (1,084,734)</u>

As part of Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 54, "Fund Balance Reporting", certain funds that are legally budgeted in separate special revenue funds are considered part of the general fund. This includes the uniform school supplies fund, public school support fund, unclaimed monies, and termination benefits fund.

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**NOTE 2 - PENSIONS & OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB)**

**PENSION**

*SCHOOL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM (SERS) OF OHIO*

*Change in benefit terms:*

- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2015.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2016.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2017.
- For fiscal year 2018, SERS changed from a fixed 3% annual increase to a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) based on the changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI-W), with a cap of 2.5% and a floor of 0%.
- For fiscal year 2019, with the authority granted the Board under Senate Bill 8, the Board has enacted a three year COLA delay for future benefit recipients commencing benefits on or after April 1, 2018.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts previously reported for fiscal year 2020.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts previously reported for fiscal year 2021.
- For fiscal year 2022, SERS changed from a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) of 2.5% to 2.0%.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2023.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2024.

*Change in assumptions:*

- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2015.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2016.
- For fiscal year 2017, the following changes of assumptions affected the total pension liability since the prior measurement date: (a) the assumed rate of inflation was reduced from 3.25% to 3.00%, (b) payroll growth assumption was reduced from 4.00% to 3.50%, (c) assumed real wage growth was reduced from 0.75% to 0.50%, (d) rates of withdrawal, retirement and disability were updated to reflect recent experience, (e) mortality among active members was updated to RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with fully generational projection and a five year age set-back for both males and females, (f) mortality among service retired members and beneficiaries was updated to the following RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with fully generational projection with Scale BB, 120% of male rates and 110% of female rates, (g) mortality among disabled members was updated to RP-2000 Disabled Mortality Table, 90% for male rates and 100% for female rates, set back five years is used for the period after disability retirement and (h) the discount rate was reduced from 7.75% to 7.50%.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2018.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2019.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2020.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2021.
- For fiscal year 2022, the following changes of assumptions affected the total pension liability since the prior measurement date: (a) wage inflation decreased from 3.00% to 2.40%, (b) future salary increases changed from 3.50%-18.20% to 3.25%-13.58%, (c) investment rate of return decreased from 7.50% to 7.00%, (d) discount rate decreased from 7.50% to 7.00% and (e) mortality tables changed from the RP-2014 Blue Collar mortality table to the PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weighted Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table.

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**NOTE 2 - PENSIONS & OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) - (Continued)**

- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2023.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2024.

*STATE TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM (STRS) OF OHIO*

*Change in benefit terms:*

- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2015.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2016.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2017.
- For fiscal year 2018, STRS decreased the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) to zero.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from amounts previously reported for fiscal year 2019.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from amounts previously reported for fiscal year 2020.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from amounts previously reported for fiscal year 2021.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from amounts previously reported for fiscal year 2022.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from amounts previously reported for fiscal year 2023.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from amounts previously reported for fiscal year 2024.

*Changes in assumptions:*

- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2015.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2016.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2017.
- For fiscal year 2018, the following changes of assumption affected the total pension liability since the prior measurement date: (a) the long-term expected rate of return was reduced from 7.75% to 7.45%, (b) the inflation assumption was lowered from 2.75% to 2.50%, (c) the payroll growth assumption was lowered to 3.00%, (d) total salary increases rate was lowered by decreasing the merit component of the individual salary increases, in addition to a decrease of 0.25% due to lower inflation, (e) the healthy and disabled mortality assumptions were updated to the RP-2014 mortality tables with generational improvement scale MP-2016 and (f) rates of retirement, termination and disability were modified to better reflect anticipated future experience.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2019.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2020.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2021.
- For fiscal year 2022, the following changes of assumption affected the total pension liability since the prior measurement date: (a) the long-term expected rate of return was reduced from 7.45% to 7.00% and (b) the discount rate of return was reduced from 7.45% to 7.00%.
- For fiscal year 2023, the following changes of assumption affected the total pension liability since the prior measurement date: the projected salary increases went from 12.50% at age 20 to 2.50% at age 65 to varies by service from 2.50% to 8.50%.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2024.



**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**NOTE 2 - PENSIONS & OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) - (Continued)**

**OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB)**

*SCHOOL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM (SERS) OF OHIO*

*Change in benefit terms:*

- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2017.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2018.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2019.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2020.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2021.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2022.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2023.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2024.

*Change in assumptions:*

- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2017.
- For fiscal year 2018, the following changes of assumptions affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date: (a) assumed rate of inflation was reduced from 3.25% to 3.00%, (b) payroll growth assumption was reduced from 4.00% to 3.50%, (c) assumed real wage growth was reduced from 0.75% to 0.50%, (d) rates of withdrawal, retirement, and disability were updated to reflect recent experience, (e) mortality among active members was updated to the following: RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with fully generational projection and a five-year age set-back for both males and females, (f) mortality among service retired members and beneficiaries was updated to the following: RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with fully generational projection with Scale BB, 120% of male rates, and 110% of female rates, (g) mortality among disabled members was updated to the following: RP-2000 Disabled Mortality Table, 90% for male rates and 100% for female rates, set back five years is used for the period after disability retirement, (h) the municipal bond index rate increased from 2.92% to 3.56% and (i) the single equivalent interest rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation increased from 2.98% to 3.63%.
- For fiscal year 2019, the following changes of assumptions affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date: (a) the discount rate increased from 3.63% to 3.70%, (b) the health care cost trend rates for Medicare were changed from a range of 5.50%-5.00% to a range of 5.375%-4.75% and Pre-Medicare were changed from a range of 7.50%-5.00% to a range of 7.25%-4.75%, (c) the municipal bond index rate increased from 3.56% to 3.62% and (d) the single equivalent interest rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation increased from 3.63% to 3.70%.
- For fiscal year 2020, the following changes of assumptions affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date: (a) the discount rate decreased from 3.70% to 3.22%, (b) the health care cost trend rates for Medicare were changed from a range of 5.375%-4.75% to a range of 5.25%-4.75% and Pre-Medicare were changed from a range of 7.25%-4.75% to a range of 7.00%-4.75%, (c) the municipal bond index rate decreased from 3.62% to 3.13% and (d) the single equivalent interest rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation decreased from 3.70% to 3.22%.
- For fiscal year 2021, the following changes of assumptions affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date: (a) the discount rate decreased from 3.22% to 2.63% and (b) the municipal bond index rate decreased from 3.13% to 2.45%, and (c) the single equivalent interest rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation decreased from 3.22% to 2.63%.

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**NOTE 2 - PENSIONS & OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) - (Continued)**

- For fiscal year 2022, the following changes of assumptions affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date: (a) wage inflation decreased from 3.00% to 2.40%, (b) future salary increases changed from 3.50%-18.20% to 3.25%-13.58%, (c) investment rate of return decreased from 7.50% to 7.00%, (d) discount rate decreased from 7.50% to 7.00% and (e) mortality tables changed from the RP-2014 Blue Collar mortality table to the PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weighted Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table.
- For fiscal year 2023, the following changes of assumptions affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date: (a) municipal bond index rate went from 1.92% to 3.69%, (b) single equivalent interest rate when from 2.27% to 4.08% and (c) medical trend assumptions went from 5.125% to 4.40% Medicare and 6.75% to 4.40% Pre-Medicare to 7.00% to 4.40%.
- For fiscal year 2024, the following changes of assumptions affect the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date: (a) municipal bond index rate went from 3.69% to 3.86%, (b) single equivalent interest rate when from 4.08% to 4.27% and (c) medical trend assumptions went from 7.00% to 4.40% to 6.75% to 4.40%.

**STATE TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM (STRS) OF OHIO**

*Change in benefit terms:*

- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts previously reported for fiscal year 2017.
- For fiscal year 2018, STRS reduced the subsidy multiplier for non-Medicare benefit recipients from 2.1% to 1.9% per year of service. Medicare Part B premium reimbursements were discontinued for certain survivors and beneficiaries and all remaining Medicare Part B premium reimbursements will be discontinued beginning January 2019.
- For fiscal year 2019, STRS increased the subsidy multiplier for non-Medicare benefit recipients from 1.9% to 1.944% per year of service effective January 1, 2019. The non-Medicare frozen subsidy base premium was increased January 1, 2019 and all remaining Medicare Part B premium reimbursements will be discontinued beginning January 1, 2020.
- For fiscal year 2020, STRS increased the subsidy percentage from 1.944% to 1.984% effective January 1, 2020. The Medicare subsidy percentages were adjusted effective January 1, 2021 to 2.1% for the Medicare plan. The Medicare Part B monthly reimbursement elimination date was postponed to January 1, 2021.
- For fiscal year 2021, the non-Medicare subsidy percentage was increased effective January 1, 2021 from 1.984% to 2.055% 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% for the AMA Medicare plan. The Medicare Part B monthly reimbursement elimination date was postponed indefinitely.
- For fiscal year 2022, the non-Medicare subsidy percentage was increased effective January 1, 2022 from 2.055% to 2.100%. 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 CY2022. The Part B monthly reimbursement elimination date was postponed indefinitely.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts previously reported for fiscal year 2023.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts previously reported for fiscal year 2024.

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**NOTE 2 - PENSIONS & OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) - (Continued)**

*Change in assumptions:*

- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2017.
- For fiscal year 2018, the following changes of assumptions affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date: (a) the discount rate was increased from 3.26% to 4.13% based on the methodology defined under GASB Statement No. 74, Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans (OPEB), (b) the long term expected rate of return was reduced from 7.75% to 7.45%, (c) valuation year per capita health care costs were updated, and the salary scale was modified, (d) 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 and (e) 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 following changes of assumptions affected the total OPEB liability/asset since the prior measurement date: (a) the discount rate was increased from the blended rate of 4.13% to the long-term expected rate of return of 7.45% based on the methodology defined under GASB Statement No. 74, Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans (OPEB) and (b) decrease in health care cost trend rates from 6.00%-11.00% initial; 4.50% ultimate down to Medical Pre-Medicare 6.00% and Medicare 5.00% initial; 4.00% ultimate and Prescription Drug Pre-Medicare 8.00% and Medicare (5.23%) initial; 4.00% ultimate.
- For fiscal year 2020, health care cost trend rates were changed to the following: medical pre-Medicare from 6.00% initial - 4.00% ultimate down to 5.87% initial - 4.00% ultimate; medical Medicare from 5.00% initial - 4.00% ultimate down to 4.93% initial - 4.00% ultimate; prescription drug pre-Medicare from 8.00% initial - 4.00% ultimate down to 7.73% initial - 4.00% ultimate and (5.23%) initial - 4.00% ultimate up to 9.62% initial - 4.00% ultimate.
- For fiscal year 2021, health care cost trend rates were changed to the following: medical pre-Medicare from 5.87% initial - 4.00% ultimate down to 5.00% initial - 4.00% ultimate; medical Medicare from 4.93% initial - 4.00% ultimate down to -6.69% initial - 4.00% ultimate; prescription drug pre-Medicare from 7.73% initial - 4.00% ultimate down to 6.50% initial - 4.00% ultimate; prescription drug Medicare from 9.62% initial - 4.00% ultimate up to 11.87% initial - 4.00% ultimate.
- For fiscal year 2022, the following changes of assumption affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date: (a) the long-term expected rate of return was reduced from 7.45% to 7.00%, (b) the discount rate of return was reduced from 7.45% to 7.00% and (c) health care cost trend rates were changed to the following: medical Medicare from -6.69% initial - 4.00% ultimate down to -16.18% initial - 4.00% ultimate; prescription drug Medicare from 11.87% initial - 4.00% ultimate up to 29.98% initial - 4.00% ultimate.
- For fiscal year 2023, the following changes of assumption affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date: (a) projected salary increase went from 12.50% at age 20 to 2.50% at age 65 to varies by services from 2.50% to 8.50% and (b) health care cost trend rates were changed to the following: Pre-Medicare from 5.00% initial - 4.00% ultimate to 7.50% initial - 3.94% ultimate; medical Medicare from -16.18% initial - 4.00% ultimate to -68.78% initial - 3.94% ultimate; prescription drug Pre-Medicare from 6.50% initial - 4.00% ultimate to 9.00% initial - 3.94% ultimate; Medicare from 29.98% initial - 4.00% ultimate to -5.47% initial - 3.94% ultimate.
- For fiscal year 2024, the following changes of assumption affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date: (a) health care cost trend rates were changed to the following: Pre-Medicare from 7.50% initial - 3.94% ultimate to 7.50% initial - 4.14% ultimate; medical Medicare from -68.78% initial - 3.94% ultimate to -10.94% initial - 4.14% ultimate; prescription drug Pre-Medicare from 9.00% initial - 3.94% ultimate to -11.95% initial - 4.14% ultimate; Medicare from -5.47% initial - 3.94% ultimate to 1.33% initial - 4.14% ultimate.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO  
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

<b>FEDERAL GRANTOR/ PASS THROUGH GRANTOR/ PROGRAM/CLUSTER TITLE</b>	<b>ASSISTANCE LISTING NUMBER</b>	<b>PASS-THROUGH ENTITY IDENTIFYING NUMBER/ ADDITIONAL AWARD IDENTIFICATION</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS</b>
<b>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE</b>			
<i>Passed Through the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce</i>			
<b>Child Nutrition Cluster:</b>			
School Breakfast Program	10.553	2024	\$ 166,111
National School Lunch Program	10.555	2024	474,984
COVID-19 - National School Lunch Program	10.555	COVID-19, 2024	49,613
National School Lunch Program - Food Donation	10.555	2024	56,275
<b>Total National School Lunch Program</b>			<b>580,872</b>
<b>Total U.S. Department of Agriculture and Child Nutrition Cluster</b>			<b>746,983</b>
<b>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY</b>			
<i>Passed Through the Ohio Office of Budget and Management</i>			
COVID-19 - Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds - School Safety Round #2	21.027	COVID-19	37,805
COVID-19 - Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds - School Safety Round #4	21.027	COVID-19	90,000
<b>Total U.S. Department of Treasury</b>			<b>127,805</b>
<b>U.S. FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION</b>			
<i>Direct</i>			
COVID-19 - Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) Program - Equipment	32.009	COVID-19, ECF2290002340	49,000
<b>Total U.S. Federal Communications Commission and Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) Program</b>			<b>49,000</b>
<b>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION</b>			
<i>Passed Through the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce</i>			
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010A	84.010A, 2023	26,797
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010A	84.010A, 2024	191,429
<b>Total Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies</b>			<b>218,226</b>
<b>Special Education Cluster (IDEA):</b>			
Special Education-Grants to States (IDEA, Part B)	84.027A	84.027A, 2023	50,797
Special Education-Grants to States (IDEA, Part B)	84.027A	84.027A, 2024	333,400
<b>Total Special Education Grants to States (IDEA, Part B)</b>			<b>384,197</b>
<i>Consortium Amount Passed/Transferred to the Lorain County Educational Service Center</i>			
Special Education-Preschool Grants (IDEA, Preschool)	84.173A	84.173A, 2024	9,273
<b>Total Special Education Cluster (IDEA)</b>			<b>393,470</b>
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants	84.367A	84.367A, 2023	5,555
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants	84.367A	84.367A, 2024	44,356
<b>Total Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants</b>			<b>49,911</b>
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program	84.424A	84.424A, 2024	17,913
COVID-19 - American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) Fund	84.425U	COVID-19, 84.425U, 2023	133,255
COVID-19 - American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) Fund	84.425U	COVID-19, 84.425U, 2024	338,555
<b>Total Education Stabilization Fund (ESF)</b>			<b>471,810</b>
<b>Total U.S. Department of Education</b>			<b>1,151,330</b>
<b>Total Expenditures of Federal Awards</b>			<b>\$ 2,075,118</b>

*The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.*

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO**

NOTES TO THE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS  
*2 CFR 200.510(b)(6)*  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

**NOTE 1 – BASIS OF PRESENTATION & SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (the Schedule) includes the federal award activity of Firelands Local School District under programs of the federal government for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024 and is prepared in accordance with the cash basis of accounting. 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 Firelands Local School District, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position, or changes in net position of Firelands Local School District. Such expenditures are recognized following cost principles contained in Uniform Guidance wherein certain types of expenditures may or may not be limited to as to reimbursement.

**NOTE 2 - DE MINIMIS COST RATE**

CFR Section 200.414 of the Uniform Guidance allows a non-federal entity that has never received a negotiated indirect cost rate to charge a de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct costs to indirect costs. Firelands Local School District has not elected to use the 10-percent de minimis indirect cost rate as allowed under the Uniform Guidance.

**NOTE 3 - CHILD NUTRITION CLUSTER**

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

**NOTE 4 - FOOD DONATION PROGRAM**

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

**NOTE 5 – PASS THROUGH FUNDS**

Firelands Local School District was awarded federal program allocations to be administered on their behalf by the Lorain County Educational Service Center (ESC). For 2024, Firelands Local School District's allocation is as follows:

<u>Grant/Program Title</u>	<u>ALN</u>	<u>Reallocated to</u>	<u>Award Amount</u>
Special Education - Preschool Grants (IDEA, Preschool)	84.173A	Lorain County ESC	\$ 9,273

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

Firelands Local School District  
Lorain County  
112 North Lake Street  
South Amherst, Ohio 44001

To the Members of 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, the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Firelands Local School District, Lorain County, Ohio, as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Firelands Local School District's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated March 25, 2025.

**Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

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

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

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

Firelands Local School District

Lorain County

Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters

Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance With *Government Auditing Standards*

### **Report on Compliance and Other Matters**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julian & Grube, Inc.".

Julian & Grube, Inc.

March 25, 2025



**Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program  
and on Internal Control Over Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance**

Firelands Local School District  
Lorain County  
112 North Lake Street  
South Amherst, Ohio 44001

To the Members of the Board of Education:

**Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program**

***Opinion on Each Major Federal Program***

We have audited Firelands Local School District's compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) *Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of Firelands Local School District's major federal programs for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. Firelands Local School District's major federal programs are identified in the summary of auditor's results section of the accompanying schedule of findings.

In our opinion, Firelands Local School District complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024.

***Basis for Opinion on Each Major Federal Program***

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; 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 Firelands Local School District and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion on compliance for each major federal program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of Firelands Local School District's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

***Responsibilities of Management for Compliance***

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

Firelands Local School District  
Lorain County  
Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program  
and on Internal Control Over Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance

***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 Firelands Local School District's compliance based on our audit. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, *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 Firelands Local School District's compliance with the requirements of each major federal program as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, *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 Firelands Local School District's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- Obtain an understanding of Firelands Local School District's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Firelands Local School District's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

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

**Report on Internal Control over Compliance**

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

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

Firelands Local School District  
Lorain County  
Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program  
and on Internal Control Over Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance

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

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julian & Grube, Inc.".

Julian & Grube, Inc.  
March 25, 2025

**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS  
2 CFR § 200.515  
JUNE 30, 2024**

<b>1. SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS</b>		
<i>(d)(1)(i)</i>	<i>Type of Financial Statement Opinion</i>	Unmodified
<i>(d)(1)(ii)</i>	<i>Were there any material weaknesses in internal control reporting at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?</i>	No
<i>(d)(1)(ii)</i>	<i>Were there any significant deficiencies in internal control reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?</i>	None reported
<i>(d)(1)(iii)</i>	<i>Was there any reported material noncompliance at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?</i>	No
<i>(d)(1)(iv)</i>	<i>Were there any material weaknesses in internal control reported for major federal programs?</i>	No
<i>(d)(1)(iv)</i>	<i>Were there any significant deficiencies in internal control reported for major federal programs?</i>	None reported
<i>(d)(1)(v)</i>	<i>Type of Major Programs' Compliance Opinion</i>	Unmodified
<i>(d)(1)(vi)</i>	<i>Are there any reportable findings under 2 CFR §200.516(a)?</i>	No
<i>(d)(1)(vii)</i>	<i>Major Programs (listed):</i>	COVID-19 – Education Stabilization Fund (ALN 84.425)
<i>(d)(1)(viii)</i>	<i>Dollar Threshold: Type A/B Programs</i>	Type A: >\$750,000 Type B: all others
<i>(d)(1)(ix)</i>	<i>Low Risk Auditee under 2 CFR § 200.520?</i>	Yes

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

None

**3. FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS**

None

# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



**FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**LORAIN COUNTY**

## **AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO CERTIFICATION**

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



**Certified for Release 6/24/2025**

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

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at  
[www.ohioauditor.gov](http://www.ohioauditor.gov)