

SUMMIT ACADEMY COMMUNITY  
SCHOOL FOR ALTERNATIVE  
LEARNERS - MIDDLETOWN  
BUTLER COUNTY, OHIO

*REGULAR 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 Directors  
Summit Academy Community School for Alternative Learners - Middletown  
4700 Central Avenue  
Middletown, Ohio 45044

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

Our review was made in reference to the applicable sections of legislative criteria, as reflected by the Ohio Constitution, and the Revised Code, policies, procedures and guidelines of the Auditor of State, regulations and grant requirements. Summit Academy Community School for Alternative Learners - Middletown is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

Keith Faber  
Auditor of State  
Columbus, Ohio

May 30, 2025

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**Summit Academy Community School for Alternative Learners - Middletown**  
**Butler County, Ohio**  
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*June 30, 2024*

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## Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of Directors  
Summit Academy Community School for Alternative Learners - Middletown  
Butler County, Ohio  
4700 Central Avenue  
Middletown, Ohio 45044

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

#### Opinion

We have audited the cash-basis financial statement of the Summit Academy Community School for Alternative Learners - Middletown, Butler County, Ohio, (the "School"), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the School's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the cash-basis financial position of the School, as of June 30, 2024, and the changes in cash-basis financial position for the year then ended in accordance with the cash-basis of accounting described in Note 2.

#### Basis for Opinion

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

#### Emphasis of Matter – Accounting Basis

Ohio Administrative Code § 117-2-03(B) requires the School to prepare its annual financial report in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We draw attention to Note 2 of the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared on the cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

#### Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the cash basis of accounting described in Note 2, and for determining that the cash basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for preparation of the financial statements in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair

presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the School'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 opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

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

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

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

### *Other Information*

Management is responsible for the other information included in the annual financial report. The other information comprises the management's discussion & analysis but does not include the basic financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinions on the basic financial statements do not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon.



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

**Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards**

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 19, 2025, on our consideration of the School's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the School's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards in considering the School's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

*Rea & Associates, Inc.*

Rea & Associates, Inc.  
Medina, Ohio  
March 19, 2025

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## **Summit Academy Community School for Alternative Learners - Middletown**

### **Butler County, Ohio**

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

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As management of Summit Academy Community School for Alternative Learners - Middletown (the School), we offer readers of the School's basic financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of the School for the year ended June 30, 2024. We encourage readers to consider the information presented here in conjunction with the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

### **Financial Highlights**

By agreement with its management company, Summit Academy Management, 100% of all receipts is passed through to the management company in order to manage the affairs of the School. In this regard, a cash management system is utilized in which all School cash is 'swept' into the bank account of the management company. As a result, the School has no cash on June 30, 2024.

### **Using these Cash Basis Basic Financial Statements**

This annual report consists of a financial statement and notes to the statement. This statement is organized so the reader can understand the School's financial activities. The statement of receipts, disbursements and change in net position – cash basis provide information about the activities of the School.

### **Reporting the School's Financial Activities**

#### ***Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Change in Fund Net Position***

This document looks at all financial transactions and asks the question, "How did the School do financially during the fiscal year?" The statement of receipts, disbursements and change in net position – cash basis answer this question. This statement includes only net position using the cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. This basis of accounting takes into account only the current year's receipts and disbursements if the cash is actually received or paid.

This statement reports the School's net position and change in net position on a cash basis. This change in net position is important because it tells the reader that, for the School as a whole, the cash basis financial position of the School has improved or diminished. Given the School's management agreement with the management company, which calls for 100% of all receipts to be paid to the management company, the School's net position is not expected to change significantly in the near future through operations.

**Summit Academy Community School for Alternative Learners - Middletown**

**Butler County, Ohio**

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

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**Financial Analysis**

In order to further understand what makes up the change in net position for the current year, the following table gives readers further details regarding the results of activities for 2024 and 2023:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>Change</u>
Operating Receipts	\$ 1,761,418	\$ 1,491,540	\$ 269,878
Operating Disbursements	<u>2,223,283</u>	<u>1,963,855</u>	<u>259,428</u>
Operating Income/(Loss)	(461,865)	(472,315)	10,450
Non-Operating Receipts	<u>461,865</u>	<u>472,315</u>	<u>(10,450)</u>
Change in Net Position	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

Fluctuations in operating and non-operating receipts are driven by the foundation funding formula and changes in enrollment. Non-operating receipts are impacted by certain demographical information. Changes in disbursements are directly correlated with operating and non-operating receipts.

**Contacting the School's Financial Management**

This financial report is designed to provide our constituents with a general overview of the School's finances and to show its accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional information, please contact Treasurer by mail at Summit Academy Management, 2791 Mogadore Road, Akron, Ohio 44312; by calling (330) 670-8470; or by faxing (330) 784-7626.

**Summit Academy Community School for Alternative Learners - Middletown**  
**Butler County, Ohio**

*Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Change in Net Position - Cash Basis*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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<b>Operating Receipts</b>	
State Foundation	\$ 1,633,506
Medicaid Receipts	116,283
Materials and Fees	6,274
Other Operating Receipts	5,355
<b>Total Operating Receipts</b>	<u>1,761,418</u>
 <b>Operating Disbursements</b>	
Purchased Services	2,219,205
Other Disbursements	4,078
<b>Total Operating Disbursements</b>	<u>2,223,283</u>
 <b>Operating Loss</b>	(461,865)
 <b>Non-Operating Receipts</b>	
State and Federal Grants	461,865
<b>Total Non-Operating Receipts</b>	<u>461,865</u>
 <b>Change in Net Position</b>	-
 Net Position at Beginning of Year	<u>-</u>
 <b>Net Position at End of Year</b>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statement.

**Summit Academy Community School for Alternative Learners - Middletown**  
**Butler County, Ohio**

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

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**NOTE 1 - DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHOOL AND REPORTING ENTITY**

Summit Academy Community School for Alternative Learners - Middletown, located in Butler County (the School), is a state nonprofit corporation established pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 3314 and 1702. The School provides educational, literary, scientific, and related teaching services for “at-risk” children with the symptoms of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Asperger’s Syndrome. The School, which is part of the State’s education program, is independent of any public school district. The School may sue and be sued, acquire facilities as needed, and contract for any services necessary for the operation of the School.

As further described in Note 5 to the financial statements, the School has contracted with Summit Academy Management, Inc. (SAM) to employ and facilitate the day-to-day management of the School. SAM is a legally separate nonprofit corporation, the results of which are not reflected in these financial statements.

The governing boards of SAM and the School have completely different members, and all members of the School Board are independent of SAM. In addition, 3 board members of SAM are elected by the majority vote of the affiliated school boards.

SAM also provides management services to the following 21 legally separate community schools whose results of operations are not included herein:

- Summit Academy Akron Elementary School
- Summit Academy Akron Middle School
- Summit Academy Secondary School – Akron
- Summit Academy Community School for Alternative Learners – Canton
- Summit Academy Secondary School – Canton
- Summit Academy Community School – Cincinnati
- Summit Academy Transition High School – Cincinnati
- Summit Academy Community School – Columbus
- Summit Academy Middle School – Columbus
- Summit Academy Transition High School – Columbus
- Summit Academy Community School – Dayton
- Summit Academy Transition High School – Dayton
- Summit Academy Community School for Alternative Learners – Lorain
- Summit Academy Secondary School – Middletown
- Summit Academy Community School – Parma
- Summit Academy – Toledo
- Summit Academy Community School – Warren
- Summit Academy School for Alternative Learners – Warren Middle and Secondary
- Summit Academy Community School for Alternative Learners – Xenia
- Summit Academy – Youngstown
- Summit Academy Secondary School – Youngstown

**Summit Academy Community School for Alternative Learners - Middletown**  
**Butler County, Ohio**

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

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The School has been approved for operation under a contract with the Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West (the Sponsor).

The School operates under a self-appointing Board of Directors (the Board). The School's Code of Regulations specifies that vacancies that arise on the Board are filled by the appointment of a successor director by a majority vote of the then-existing directors. The Board is responsible for carrying out the provisions of the contract with the Sponsor. These include, but are not limited to, state-mandated provisions regarding student population, curriculum, academic goals, performance standards, admission standards, and qualifications of teachers.

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

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

***A. Basis of Presentation***

The School's basic financial statement consists of a statement of receipts, disbursements and change in net position. This statement is prepared on the cash basis of accounting as further described in Basis of Accounting below.

The School uses a single enterprise presentation for its financial records. Enterprise reporting focuses on the determination of operating receipts and disbursements, change in net position, and financial position.

***B. Basis of Accounting***

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

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

***C. Budgetary Process***

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

**Summit Academy Community School for Alternative Learners - Middletown**  
**Butler County, Ohio**

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

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***D. Cash***

All monies received by the School are maintained in a demand deposit account, which are swept into an account of the management company in accordance with the management agreement discussed in Note 5.

***E. Inventory and Prepaid Items***

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

***F. Capital Assets***

The School has no capital assets, as the School operates under a management agreement with Summit Academy Management Company (see Note 5).

***G. Net Position***

Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through the enabling legislation or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors or laws or regulations of other governments. The School applies restricted resources first when a disbursement is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position is available.

***H. Operating Receipts and Disbursements***

Operating receipts are those receipts that are generated directly from the primary activity of the School. For the School, these receipts are primarily State Foundation and Medicaid payments. Operating disbursements are necessary costs incurred to provide the service that is the primary activity of the School. All receipts and disbursements not meeting this definition are reported as non-operating.

***I. Intergovernmental Receipts***

The School currently participates in the State Foundation Program. Receipts received from this program are recognized as operating receipts in the accounting period received.

***J. Employer Contributions to Cost-Sharing Pension Plans***

The School recognizes the disbursement for employer contributions to cost-sharing pension plans when they are paid. As described in Notes 6 and 7, the employer contributions include portions for pension benefits and for postretirement healthcare benefits.

***K. Long-Term Obligations***

The School's cash basis financial statements do not report liabilities for bonds, leases and other long-term obligations. Proceeds of debt are reported when cash is received, and principal and interest payments are reported when paid. Since recording a capital asset (including the intangible right to use) when entering into a lease, subscription-based information technology arrangements (SBITA) or financed purchase transaction is not the result of a cash transaction, a capital outlay disbursement is not reported at inception. Lease, SBITA and financed purchase payments are reported when paid.



**Summit Academy Community School for Alternative Learners - Middletown  
Butler County, Ohio**

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

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***L. Related Parties***

Related parties exist when an entity has the ability to significantly influence the management or operating policies of another entity. Related parties include Summit Academy Management.

**NOTE 3 - COMPLIANCE**

Ohio Administrative Code, Section 117-2-03 (B), requires the School to prepare its annual financial report in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. However, the School prepared its financial statements on a cash basis, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The accompanying financial statements omit assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, net position, and disclosures that, while material, cannot be determined at this time. The School can be fined and various other administrative remedies may be taken against the School.

**NOTE 4 - DEPOSITS**

At June 30, 2024, the carrying amount of the School's deposits was \$0, and the bank balance was \$0.

**NOTE 5 – AGREEMENT WITH SUMMIT ACADEMY MANAGEMENT**

The School has contracted with Summit Academy Management (SAM) to facilitate the day-to-day operations of the School. Per the agreement, the School pays SAM, as a management fee, 100 percent of receipts. In turn, SAM is responsible for all costs and decisions associated with operating the School. Such costs and decision areas include, but are not limited to: personnel (all teaching and administrative personnel are employees of SAM); insurance; pension and retirement benefits; curriculum materials, textbooks, computers and other equipment, software, and supplies; as well as utilities, janitorial services, and legal and financial management services. SAM is also responsible for maintenance of the School's facility. See Note 13 for the amount of actual direct and indirect disbursements incurred by SAM on behalf of the School.

**NOTE 6 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS**

The net pension liability is disclosed as a commitment and not reported on the face of the financial statements as a liability because of the use of the cash basis framework.

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

***Net Pension Liability/Net OPEB Liability (Asset)***

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

**Summit Academy Community School for Alternative Learners - Middletown**  
**Butler County, Ohio**

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

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

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

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

The net pension/net OPEB liability (asset) are not reported on the face of the financial statements, but rather are disclosed in the notes because of the use of the modified cash basis framework.

The remainder of this note includes the required pension disclosures. See Note 7 for the required OPEB disclosures.

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

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

**Summit Academy Community School for Alternative Learners - Middletown**  
**Butler County, Ohio**

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

Age and service requirements for retirement are as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

The School's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$43,236 for fiscal year 2024.

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

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

**Summit Academy Community School for Alternative Learners - Middletown**

**Butler County, Ohio**

*Notes to the Financial Statement*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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

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

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

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

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

**Summit Academy Community School for Alternative Learners - Middletown**  
**Butler County, Ohio**

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

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

The School's contractually required contribution to STRS was \$106,980 for fiscal year 2024.

***Net Pension Liability***

The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2023, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an independent actuarial valuation as of that date. The School's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the employer's share of employer contributions in the pension plan relative to the total employer contributions of all participating employers. Following is information related to the proportionate share:

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Proportion of the Net Pension Liability:			
Current Measurement Date	0.0085676%	0.00606733%	
Prior Measurement Date	<u>0.0065628%</u>	<u>0.00549822%</u>	
Change in Proportionate Share	<u>0.0020048%</u>	<u>0.00056911%</u>	
Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 473,405	\$ 1,306,596	\$ 1,780,001

***Actuarial Assumptions - SERS***

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
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>	

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

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

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
School 's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 698,720	\$ 473,405	\$ 283,618

**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, are presented below:

Inflation	2.50 percent
Salary increases	From 2.5 percent to 8.5 percent based on service
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation
Discount Rate of Return	7.00 percent
Payroll Increases	3.00 percent
Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA)	0.0 percent, effective July 1, 2017

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

	<u>1% Decrease</u>	<u>Current Discount Rate</u>	<u>1% Increase</u>
School 's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 2,009,255	\$ 1,306,596	\$ 712,338

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

## **NOTE 7 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS**

The net OPEB liability (asset) is disclosed as a commitment and not reported on the face of the financial statements as a liability because of the use of the cash basis framework.

See Note 6 for a description of the net OPEB liability (asset).



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

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

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

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

Funding Policy - State statute permits SERS to fund the health care benefits through employer contributions. Each year, after the allocation for statutorily required pensions and benefits, the Retirement Board may allocate the remainder of the employer contribution of 14 percent of covered payroll to the Health Care Fund in accordance with the funding policy. For fiscal year 2024, no allocation was made to health care. An additional health care surcharge on employers is collected for employees earning less than an actuarially determined minimum compensation amount, pro-rated if less than a full year of service credit was earned. For fiscal year 2024, this amount was \$30,000. Statutes provide that no employer shall pay a health care surcharge greater than 2.00 percent of that employer's SERS-covered payroll; nor may SERS collect in aggregate more than 1.50 percent of the total statewide SERS-covered payroll for the health care surcharge. For fiscal year 2024, the School's surcharge obligation was \$4,817. The surcharge, added to the allocated portion of the 14 percent employer contribution rate, is the total amount assigned to the Health Care Fund. The School's contractually required contribution to SERS was equal to its surcharge obligation for fiscal year 2024.

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***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 percent 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 Liability (Asset)***

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

	SERS	STRS
Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset):		
Current Measurement Date	0.0083630%	0.00606733%
Prior Measurement Date	0.0067255%	0.00549822%
Change in Proportionate Share	<u>0.0016375%</u>	<u>0.00056911%</u>
Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset)	\$ 137,776	\$ (118,001)

***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.

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

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

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

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

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

The long-term expected rate of return on plan assets is reviewed as part of the actuarial five-year experience study. The most recent study covers fiscal years 2016 through 2020, and was adopted by the Board in 2021. Several factors are considered in evaluating the long-term rate of return assumption including long-term historical data, estimates inherent in current market data, and a long-normal distribution analysis in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected return, net of investment expense and inflation) were developed by the investment consultant for each major asset class. These ranges were combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return, 7.00 percent,

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by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and then adding expected inflation. The capital market assumptions developed by the investment consultant are intended for use over a 10-year horizon and may not be useful in setting the long-term rate of return for funding pension plans which covers a longer timeframe. The assumption is intended to be a long-term assumption and is not expected to change absent a significant change in the asset allocation, a change in the inflation assumption, or a fundamental change in the market that alters expected returns in future years.

The 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. As of June 30, 2023:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
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 percent. The discount rate used to measure total OPEB liability prior to June 30, 2023, was 4.08 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions will be made from members and the System at the contribution rate of 1.50 percent of projected covered payroll each year, which includes a 1.50 percent payroll surcharge and no contributions from the basic benefits plan. Based on these assumptions, the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be depleted in 2048 by SERS' actuaries. The Fidelity General Obligation 20-year Municipal Bond Index Rate was used in the determination of the single equivalent interest rate for both the June 30, 2022, and the June 30, 2023, total OPEB liability. The Municipal Bond Index Rate is the single rate that will generate a present value of benefit payments equal to the sum of the present value determined by the long-term expected rate of return, and the present value determined by discounting those benefits after the date of depletion. The Municipal Bond Index Rate was 3.86 percent at June 30, 2023, and 3.69 percent at June 30, 2022.

**Sensitivity of the School's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate and Changes in the Health Care Cost Trend Rates** The net OPEB liability is sensitive to changes in the discount rate and the health care cost trend rate. The following table presents the net OPEB liability and what the net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (3.27 percent) and higher (5.27 percent) than the current discount rate (4.27 percent). Also shown is what the net OPEB liability would be based on health care cost trend rates that are one percentage point lower (5.75 percent decreasing to 3.40 percent) and higher (7.75 percent decreasing to 5.40 percent) than the current rate (6.75 percent decreasing to 4.40 percent).

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	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
School 's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	\$ 176,117	\$ 137,776	\$ 107,542
	1% Decrease	Current Trend Rate	1% Increase
School 's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	\$ 101,219	\$ 137,776	\$ 186,218

***Actuarial Assumptions – STRS***

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

	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022
Projected Salary Increases	Varies by service from 2.5 percent to 8.5 percent	Varies by service from 2.5 percent to 8.5 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation	7.00 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation
Payroll Increases	3.00 percent	3.00 percent
Discount Rate of Return	7.00 percent	7.00 percent
Health Care Cost Trends		
Medical		
Pre-Medicare	7.50 percent initial 4.14 percent ultimate	7.50 percent initial 3.94 percent ultimate
Medicare	-10.94 percent initial 4.14 percent ultimate	-68.78 percent initial 3.94 percent ultimate
Prescription Drug		
Pre-Medicare	-11.95 percent initial 4.14 percent ultimate	9.00 percent initial 3.94 percent ultimate
Medicare	1.33 percent initial 4.14 percent ultimate	-5.47 percent initial 3.94 percent ultimate

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
School 's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB (Asset)	\$ (99,873)	\$ (118,001)	\$ (133,789)
	1% Decrease	Current Trend Rate	1% Increase
School 's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB (Asset)	\$ (134,522)	\$ (118,001)	\$ (98,102)

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

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

**NOTE 8 – OTHER BENEFITS**

SAM has contracted with a private carrier to provide employees within the School medical/surgical benefits. SAM pays a portion of the monthly premium for full-time employees and for part-time employees depending on the employee's status. The employees are responsible for the remaining amounts. SAM's and the employees' monthly premiums vary depending upon family size and the level of coverage the employee selected. SAM also allows employees to participate in 403(b) deferred annuities through four vendors.

**NOTE 9 – TRANSACTIONS WITH RELATED PARTIES**

During fiscal year 2024, 100 percent of the School's disbursements were paid as management fees to SAM in accordance with the management agreement further discussed in Note 5.

**NOTE 10 – RISK MANAGEMENT**

The School is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft or damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. SAM has contracted with a commercial insurance company for property and general liability insurance on behalf of the School.

Settled claims have not exceeded insurance coverage during the past three years, and there was no significant reduction in coverage amounts from the prior year policy.

**NOTE 11 - CONTINGENCIES**

***Grants***

The School received financial assistance from federal and state agencies in the form of grants. The expenditure of funds received under these programs generally requires compliance with terms and conditions specified in the grant agreements and are subject to audit by the grantor agencies. Any disallowed claims resulting from such audits could become a liability. However, in the opinion of management, any such disallowed claims will not have a material adverse effect on the overall financial position of the School at June 30, 2024.

***Litigation***

The School is not a party to legal proceedings that, in the opinion of management, would have a material adverse effect on the financial statements.

**NOTE 12 – TAX EXEMPT STATUS**

Effective January 25, 2001 the School was granted its status as a tax exempt, non-profit organization under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3).

**Summit Academy Community School for Alternative Learners - Middletown**  
**Butler County, Ohio**

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

**NOTE 13 - MANAGEMENT COMPANY DISBURSEMENTS**

As per the agreement with SAM (See Note 5), 100 percent of School receipts are paid to SAM as a management fee.

Summit Academy Management incurred the following actual direct and indirect disbursements on behalf of the School during fiscal year 2024:

	<u>Alt. Learners-Middletown</u>				
	<u>Regular Instruction</u>	<u>Special Instruction</u>	<u>Support Services</u>	<u>Non-Instructional</u>	<u>Total</u>
<i>Direct Expenses:</i>					
Salaries and Wages	\$ 493,956	\$ 250,283	\$ 255,886	\$ 10,263	\$ 1,010,388
Employees' Benefits	150,338	83,797	83,881	4,084	322,100
Professional and Technical Services	-	373	243,150	608	244,131
Property Services	-	-	149,505	-	149,505
Utilities	-	-	37,318	-	37,318
Contracted Craft or Trade Services	-	-	44	70,780	70,824
Other Purchased Services	-	-	13	-	13
Supplies	37,346	1,175	4,659	943	44,123
Equipment	-	-	602	-	602
All Other Direct Costs	3,035	83	26,841	1,600	31,559
<i>Indirect Expenses:</i>					
Overhead	14,093	99	301,609	2,903	318,704
<b>Total expenses</b>	<u>\$ 698,768</u>	<u>\$ 335,810</u>	<u>\$ 1,103,508</u>	<u>\$ 91,181</u>	<u>\$ 2,229,267</u>

Summit Academy Management charges disbursements benefiting more than one school (i.e. indirect overhead disbursements) pro rata based on June 2024 FTE amounts.

**NOTE 14 – SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT**

Under Paragraph 9.7 of the sponsor contract with the Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West, it states that “for and in consideration of two and a half percent (2.75%) of the total amount of payments for operating expenses received by the School from the State of Ohio... the Sponsor shall provide the monitoring, oversight, and technical assistance required by law.” Such fees are paid to the Sponsor monthly. During the fiscal year, SAM (contracted as the School’s management company) paid the fees of \$45,659 to the Sponsor for the School.



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

To the Board of Directors  
Summit Academy Community School for Alternative Learners - Middletown  
Butler County, Ohio  
4700 Central Avenue  
Middletown, Ohio 45044

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to the financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*), the cash-basis financial statements of the Summit Academy Community School for Alternative Learners - Middletown, Butler County, Ohio (the "School") as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the School's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated March 19, 2025, wherein we noted the School uses a special purpose framework other than generally accepted accounting principles.

***Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting***

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

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the School'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.

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

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the School's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed an instance of noncompliance or other matter that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which is described in the accompanying *Schedule of Findings and Responses* as item 2024-001.

### **The School's Response to the Finding**

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

### **Purpose of this Report**

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the School's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the School's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

*Rea & Associates, Inc.*

Rea & Associates, Inc.  
Medina, Ohio  
March 19, 2025

**SUMMIT ACADEMY COMMUNITY SCHOOL FOR ALTERNATIVE LEARNERS - MIDDLETOWN**  
**BUTLER COUNTY, OHIO**  
***Schedule of Findings and Responses***  
**JUNE 30, 2024**

**Finding Number: 2024-001 –Material Non-Compliance**

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

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

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

Pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 the School may be fined and subject to various other administrative remedies for its failure to file the required financial report. Failure to report on a GAAP basis compromises the School's ability to evaluate and monitor the overall financial condition of the School. To help provide the users with more meaningful financial statements, the School should prepare its annual financial statements according to generally accepted accounting principles.

**Management's Response:** A cost benefit analysis was done by the organization, and it was determined that, due to the uncertainties with school funding and the cost of doing a GAAP conversion, Summit Academy Management chose not to file annual financial reports using generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).



**Summit Academy Community School for Alternative Learners - Middletown**  
**Butler County, Ohio**  
*Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings*  
*June 30, 2024*

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Status	Additional Information
2023-001	Noncompliance with ORC 117.38 and 117-2-03(B)	Not Corrected	A cost benefit analysis was done by the organization, and it was determined that, due to the uncertainties with school funding and the cost of doing a GAAP conversion, Summit Academy Management chose not to file annual financial reports using generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).

# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



**SUMMIT ACADEMY COMMUNITY SCHOOL FOR ALTERNATIVE LEARNERS OF MIDDLETOWN  
BUTLER 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 6/12/2025**

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)