



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



**SMART ACADEMY
CUYAHOGA COUNTY
JUNE 30, 2023**

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

SMART Academy
Cuyahoga County
4351 East 131st Street
Garfield Heights, Ohio 44105

To the Board of Directors:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the SMART Academy, Cuyahoga County, Ohio (the Academy), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Academy's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the SMART Academy as of June 30, 2023, and the changes in financial position and its cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. 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 Academy, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

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

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Academy'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 Academy'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 Academy's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

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

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the *management's discussion and analysis*, and schedules of net pension and other post-employment benefit liabilities and pension and other post-employment benefit contributions be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Supplementary information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Academy's basic financial statements. The Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (the Schedule), as required by Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the 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 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 February 6, 2025, on our consideration of the Academy'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 Academy'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 Academy's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

February 6, 2025

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SMART Academy
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023
(Unaudited)

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

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

Financial Highlights

- In total, net position decreased \$224,687 from 2022.
- Total assets decreased \$100,550 and total liabilities increased \$510,851 during 2023.

Collectively, the net pension liability (NPL), reported pursuant to GASB Statement 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions—an Amendment of GASB Statement 27* and the net OPEB liability, pursuant to GASB Statement 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions*, are one of the largest liabilities reported by the Academy at June 30, 2023. For reasons discussed below, many end users of this financial statement will gain a clearer understanding of the Academy's actual financial condition by adding deferred inflows related to pension and OPEB, the net pension liability and the net OPEB liability to the reported net position and subtracting deferred outflows related to pension and OPEB and net OPEB asset.

Governmental Accounting Standards Board standards are national and apply to all government financial reports prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Prior accounting for pensions (GASB 27) and postemployment benefits (GASB 45) focused on a funding approach. This approach limited pension and OPEB costs to contributions annually required by law, which may or may not be sufficient to fully fund each plan's *net pension 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 asset/liability to equal the Academy'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

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(Unaudited)

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

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

Most long-term liabilities have set repayment schedules or, in the case of compensated absences (i.e. sick and vacation leave), are satisfied through paid time-off or termination payments. There is no repayment schedule for the net pension liability or the net OPEB liability reported by the retirement bonds. 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 Academy’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 asset/liability, respectively, not accounted for as deferred inflows/outflows of resources.

Using this Financial Report

This report consists of the financial statements, notes to the financial statements, required supplementary information, and notes to the required supplementary information. The financial statements include a Statement of Net Position, a Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position, and a Statement of Cash Flows.

SMART Academy
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023
(Unaudited)

Statement of Net Position

The Statement of Net Position answers the question of how well the Academy performed financially during 2023. This statement includes all assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and net position, both financial and capital and current and long-term, using the accrual basis of accounting, which is the accounting used by most private-sector companies. This basis of accounting takes into account all revenues and expenses during the year, regardless of when the cash is received or expended.

Table 1 provides a summary of the Academy's Net Position for fiscal years 2023 and 2022.

(Table 1)
Statement of Net Position

	2023	2022	Change
Assets			
Current Assets	\$ 85,023	\$ 160,160	\$ (75,137)
Non-Current Assets	142,655	92,637	50,018
Capital Assets, Net	-	75,431	(75,431)
<i>Total Assets</i>	<u>227,678</u>	<u>328,228</u>	<u>(100,550)</u>
Deferred Outflows			
	<u>965,020</u>	<u>926,135</u>	<u>38,885</u>
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities	131,259	348,262	(217,003)
Long Term Liabilities	1,443,638	715,784	727,854
<i>Total Liabilities</i>	<u>1,574,897</u>	<u>1,064,046</u>	<u>510,851</u>
Deferred Inflows			
	<u>297,402</u>	<u>645,231</u>	<u>(347,829)</u>
Net Position			
Net Investment in Capital Assets	-	(2,716)	2,716
Restricted	35,266	-	35,266
Unrestricted	(714,867)	(452,198)	(262,669)
<i>Total Net Position</i>	<u>\$ (679,601)</u>	<u>\$ (454,914)</u>	<u>\$ (224,687)</u>

Current assets decreased from 2022 primarily due to decreased grant funding receivables. Capital assets decreased from the prior year due to amortization.

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

SMART Academy
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023
(Unaudited)

Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position

Table 2 shows the changes in net position for fiscal year 2023 and 2022.

(Table 2)
Change in Net Position

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Change</u>
Operating Revenue	\$ 789,862	\$1,026,768	\$ (236,906)
Non-Operating Revenue	<u>983,182</u>	<u>462,353</u>	<u>520,829</u>
Total Revenue	<u>1,773,044</u>	<u>1,489,121</u>	<u>283,923</u>
Operating Expenses	1,991,815	1,798,316	193,499
Non-Operating Expenses	<u>5,916</u>	<u>14,699</u>	<u>(8,783)</u>
Total Expenses	<u>1,997,731</u>	<u>1,813,015</u>	<u>184,716</u>
Change In Net Position	<u><u>\$ (224,687)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (323,894)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 99,207</u></u>

The Academy's revenues in 2023 were based on the Academy's full-time equivalent (FTE) and the Academy's federal grant funding awards. The decrease in Academy's operating revenue was primarily caused by the decrease in enrollment. Non-operating revenue increased significantly as a result of COVID-19 federal grant funding.

Pension and OPEB expense increased due to changes associated to changes in the Academy's proportionate share of the net pension liability, net OPEB liability/asset and related accruals. As previously indicated, these items are explained in detail within their respective notes.

Capital Assets

The capital asset balances decreased during fiscal year 2023 due to amortization. Detailed information regarding capital asset activity is included in Note 5 in the notes to the basic financial statements.

Long-Term Debt

As of June 30, 2023, the Academy's loan payable and lease payable decreased due to principal payments made during the fiscal year. See Note 7 for additional information on loans payable.

Current Financial Issues

SMART Academy received revenue for 100 students in 2023 and 108 students in 2022. State law governing community schools allows for the Academy to have open enrollment across traditional school district boundaries.

SMART Academy
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023
(Unaudited)

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

Although there is a possibility that state aid will be cut in future years due to the economic climate, the Academy feels that the relationship with the management company will insulate them from any significant change.

Contacting the Academy's Financial Management

This financial report is designed to provide our readers with a general overview of the Academy's finances and to show the Academy's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional information, contact the Fiscal Officer at 4351 E 131st Street, Garfield Heights, Ohio 44105.

SMART Academy
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Statement of Net Position
June 30, 2023

Assets

Current Assets

Cash	\$ 55,067
Grant Funding Receivable	22,520
Due from Other Governments	6,431
Prepaid Items	1,005
<i>Total Current Assets</i>	<u>85,023</u>

Noncurrent Assets

Security Deposit	6,192
Net OPEB Asset	<u>136,463</u>
<i>Total Noncurrent Assets</i>	<u>142,655</u>

Total Assets

227,678

Deferred Outflows of Resources

Pension	862,644
OPEB	102,376
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>965,020</u>

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	45,748
Accrued Wages and Benefits	63,948
Loans Payable	21,563
<i>Total Current Liabilities</i>	<u>131,259</u>

Long Term Liabilities

Net Pension Liability	1,386,200
Net OPEB Liability	57,438
<i>Total Long Term Liabilities</i>	<u>1,443,638</u>

Total Liabilities

1,574,897

Deferred Inflows of Resources

Pension	118,908
OPEB	178,494
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>297,402</u>

Net Position

Restricted for Other Purposes	35,266
Unrestricted	(714,867)
Total Net Position	<u>\$ (679,601)</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

SMART Academy
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Statement of Revenues, Expenses, And Changes in Net Position
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Operating Revenues

Foundation & Facilities Revenue	\$ 783,382
Casino Tax Distribution	6,480
Total Operating Revenues	789,862

Operating Expenses

Salaries	747,926
Fringe Benefits	547,314
Purchased Services	486,155
Supplies and Materials	83,580
Amortization	75,431
Other Operating Expenses	51,409
Total Operating Expenses	1,991,815

Operating Income (Loss)	(1,201,953)
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Non-Operating Revenues/Expenses

Federal and State Grants	983,177
Interest Expense	(5,916)
Interest Income	5
Net Non-Operating Revenues (Expenses)	977,266

Change in Net Position	(224,687)
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Net Position Beginning of Year	(454,914)
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Net Position End of Year	\$ (679,601)
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See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

SMART Academy
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Statement of Cash Flows
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Increase (Decrease) In Cash And Cash Equivalents

Cash Flows From Operating Activities

Cash Received From State Aid	\$ 789,862
Cash Received Other Operating Sources	1,270
Cash Payments for Wages and Fringe Benefits	(976,262)
Cash Payments for Goods and Services	(686,906)
Other Cash Payments	(51,409)
<i>Net Cash Used For Operating Activities</i>	<u><u>(923,445)</u></u>

Cash Flows From Capital Financing Activities

Cash Payments for Principal	(78,147)
Cash Payments for Interest	(349)
<i>Net Cash Used For Capital Financing Activities</i>	<u><u>(78,496)</u></u>

Cash Flows From Noncapital Financing Activities

Cash Received From Grant Programs	1,106,392
Cash Payments for Principal	(49,651)
Cash Payments for Interest	(5,916)
<i>Net Cash Received From Noncapital Financing Activities</i>	<u><u>1,050,825</u></u>

Cash Flows From Investing Activities

Cash Received From Interest	<u><u>5</u></u>
<i>Net Increase in Cash</i>	48,889
<i>Cash at Beginning of Year</i>	<u><u>6,178</u></u>
<i>Cash at End of Year</i>	<u><u>\$ 55,067</u></u>

Reconciliation Of Operating Income (Loss) To Net Cash Used For Operating Activities

Operating Income (Loss)	\$ (1,201,953)
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Adjustments To Reconcile Operating Income (Loss) To Net Cash Used For Operating Activities:

Amortization	75,431
Changes in Assets, Liabilities, and Deferred Outflows/Inflows:	
Intergovernmental Receivable	(459)
Prepays	1,270
Deferred Outflows of Resources	(38,885)
Deferred Inflows of Resources	(347,829)
Net OPEB Asset	(50,018)
Net Pension/OPEB Liability	749,417
Accounts Payable	(117,171)
Accrued Wages and Benefits Payable	23,819
Due to Other Governments	(17,067)
<i>Total Adjustments</i>	<u><u>278,508</u></u>
<i>Net Cash Used For Operating Activities</i>	<u><u>\$ (923,445)</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

SMART Academy
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 1 - DESCRIPTION OF THE ACADEMY AND REPORTING ENTITY

SMART Academy (the Academy) is a nonprofit corporation established April 14, 2017 pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Chapters 3314 and 1702 to maintain and provide a school exclusively for any educational, literary, scientific and related teaching service that qualifies as an exempt organization under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. On February 12, 2019, the Academy received a determination letter confirming tax-exempt status with the Internal Revenue Service under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Management is not aware of any course of action or series of events that have occurred that might adversely affect the tax-exempt status of the Academy. The Academy, which is part of Ohio's education program, is independent of any school district. The Academy may sue and be sued, acquire facilities as needed, and contract for any services necessary for the operation of the Academy.

The Academy was approved for operation under a contract between the Governing Authority of the Academy and Buckeye Community Hope Foundation (BCHF) (the Sponsor) for a period of five-years commencing July 1, 2018. The contract with BCHF has been superseded with a new five-year agreement commencing July 1, 2019 and expiring June 30, 2024. Under the terms of the contract BCHF will provide sponsorship services for a fee. See Note 12 for further discussion of the sponsor services. Effective June 30, 2023 the Academy's sponsor changed to ODE Office of Community School Sponsorship and has an initial term of 2 years.

The Academy operates under a five-member Board of Directors. The Board is responsible for carrying out the provisions of the contract, which include, but are not limited to, state mandated provisions regarding student population, curriculum, academic goals, performance standards, admission standards, and qualification of teachers. The Board of Directors controls the instructional facilities for Academy, which provided services to 108 students during the fiscal year.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

Basis of Presentation

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

Auditor of State of Ohio Bulletin No. 2000-005 requires the presentation of all financial activity to be reported within one enterprise fund for year-end reporting purposes. Enterprise accounting is used to account for operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises where the intent is that the costs (expenses) of providing goods or services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges.

SMART Academy
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting

The accounting and financial reporting treatment is determined by its measurement focus. Enterprise accounting uses a flow of economic resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, all assets, deferred outflows of resources and all liabilities and deferred inflows of resources are included on the Statement of Net Position. Operating statements present increases (e.g., revenues) and decreases (e.g., expenses) in net total position.

Basis of accounting determines when transactions are recorded in the financial records and reported on the financial statements. The Academy prepares financial statements using the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues resulting from exchange transactions, in which each party gives and receives essentially equal value, is recorded when the exchange takes place. Revenues resulting from non-exchange transactions, in which the Academy receives value without directly giving equal value in return, such as grants and entitlements, are recognized in the fiscal year in which all eligibility requirements have been satisfied. Eligibility requirements include timing requirements, which specify the fiscal year when the resources are required to be used or the fiscal year when the use is first permitted; matching requirements, in which the Academy must provide local resources to be used for a specified purpose; and expenditure requirements, in which resources are provided to the Academy on a reimbursement basis. Expenses are recognized at the time they are incurred.

Budgetary Process

Community Schools are statutorily required to adopt a budget by Ohio Revised Code 3314.032(C). However, unlike traditional public school's 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 Academy and its Sponsor. The contract between the Academy and its Sponsor does not require the Academy to follow the provisions Ohio Revised Code Chapter 5705; therefore, no budgetary information is presented in the basic financial statements.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

All cash received by the Academy is maintained in demand deposit accounts.

Intergovernmental Revenues

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

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

SMART Academy
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

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

Compensated Absences

Teaching and office staff: Teaching and office staff are provided Paid Time Off (PTO) leave totaling seven (7) days per year, all of which is available the first day of each fiscal year. PTO is pro-rated for employees beginning employment after the first day of the school year. Unused PTO is carried over into the next school year and is capped at fifteen days in any given school year. Upon separation employee shall be compensated for all unused PTO only if they are non-renewed for the next school year. Employees who resign or are terminated forfeit all unused accumulated PTO.

Superintendent: The Academy provides Superintendent compensated time off in the amount of three (3) personal days annually; one and one-quarter (1.25) days sick leave each month totaling fifteen (15) days annually; and thirty (30) vacation days annually.

Upon retirement from employment through the STRS, Superintendent may elect to be paid for a percentage of his balance of accrued but unused sick leave. All vacation leave accrued and unused by Superintendent is accumulated and carried forward annually. Upon separation from employment, Superintendent will be compensated at the current per diem rate of pay for all accrued and unused vacation leave. Compensation for unused vacation leave is capped at the leave accrued during the three (3) years immediately preceding the date of separation.

During the school year, the Academy accrued compensated absences earned by employees returning for the next fiscal year. As of June 30, 2023, compensated absence balances total \$49,959 and corresponding employer state retirement system contributions total \$13,989 respectively. These balances are included in Accrued Wages and Accrued Benefits.

Capital Assets and Depreciation

Capital assets are capitalized at cost. The costs of additions are capitalized and expenditures for repairs and maintenance are expensed when incurred. Donated assets are recorded at their acquisition values at the date received. When property is sold or retired, the related costs and accumulated depreciation are removed from the financial records and any gain or loss is included in additions to or deductions from Net Position.

The Academy's policy for asset capitalization threshold is \$5,000. Assets or certain asset groups not meeting the capitalization threshold are not capitalized and are not included in the assets represented in the accompanying Statement of Net Position.

During the year, the Academy reported an intangible right to use assets related to leased buildings. These intangible assets were being amortized in a systematic and rational manner over the shorter of the lease term or the useful life of the underlying asset. At June 30, 2023, the existing lease expired and the Academy executed a one-year renewal agreement on the building lease, which did not qualify as a long-term lease or associated capital lease under the accounting standards.

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Use of Estimates

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

Net Position

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

Operating Revenues and Expenses

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

Pensions and Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)

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

Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources

In addition to assets, the statement of net position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. Deferred outflows of resources represent a consumption of net assets that applies to a future period and will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then.

For the Academy, deferred outflows of resources are reported on the statement of net position for pension and OPEB. The deferred outflows of resources related to pension and OPEB plans are explained in Notes 9 and 10.

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In addition to liabilities, the statement of net position report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. Deferred inflows of resources represent an acquisition of net assets that applies to a future period and will not be recognized until that time. For the Academy, deferred inflows of resources include pension and OPEB, which are reported on the statement of net position. (See Notes 9 and 10).

Prepays

Payments made to vendors for services that will benefit periods beyond June 30, 2023, are recorded as prepaid items using the consumption method. A current asset for the prepaid amount is recorded at the time of purchase and an expenditure/expense is reported in the year which services are consumed.

NOTE 3 – IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, the Academy has implemented GASB Statement No. 91, *Conduit Debt Obligations*, GASB Statement No. 93, paragraphs 13 and 14, *Replacement of Interbank Offered Rates*, GASB Statement No. 94, *Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships and Available Payment Arrangements*, GASB Statement No. 96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements*, and certain provisions of GASB Statement No. 99, *Omnibus 2022*.

GASB Statement No. 91 provides a single method of reporting conduit debt obligations by issuers and eliminates diversity in practice associated with (1) commitments extended by issuers, (2) arrangements associated with conduit debt obligations, and (3) related note disclosures. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 91 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the Academy.

GASB Statement No. 93, paragraphs 13 and 14, provide an exception to the lease modifications guidance in GASB Statement No. 87, as amended, for certain lease contracts that are amended solely to replace an IBOR as the rate upon which variable payments depend. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 93 paragraphs 13 and 14, did not have an effect on the financial statements of the Academy.

GASB Statement No. 94 improves financial reporting by establishing the definitions of public-private and public-public partnership arrangements and availability payment arrangements as well as provides uniform guidance on accounting and financial reporting for transactions that meet the definitions. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 94 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the Academy.

GASB Statement No. 96 improves financial reporting by establishing a definition for subscription-based information technology arrangements (SBITAs) and providing uniform guidance for accounting and financial reporting for transactions that meet that definition. The statement also enhances the relevance and reliability of the financial statements by requiring a government to report a subscription asset and subscription liability for a SBITA and discloses essential information about the arrangement. The note disclosures also allow the users to understand the scale and important aspects of the SBITA activities and evaluate the obligations and assets resulting from the SBITAs. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 96 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the Academy.

GASB Statement No. 99 enhances comparability in accounting and financial reporting and improves the consistency of authoritative literature by addressing (1) practice issues that have been identified during implementation and application of certain GASB Statements and (2) accounting and financial reporting for financial guarantees. The implementation of certain provisions of GASB Statement No. 99 that relate

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to extension of LIBOR, accounting for SNAP distributions, disclosures of nonmonetary transactions, and pledges of future revenues by pledging governments, did not have an effect on the financial statements of the Academy.

NOTE 4 - DEPOSITS

The Academy's deposits are fully insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

NOTE 5 - CAPITAL ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION/AMORTIZATION

As of June 30, 2023, the Academy has the following in capital assets.

	Balance 6/30/2022	Additions	Deletions	Balance 6/30/2023
Capital Assets:				
Leased Assets - Buildings (intangible)	\$ 150,861	\$ -	\$ (150,861)	\$ -
Less Accumulated Amortization:				
Leased Assets - Buildings (intangible)	<u>(75,430)</u>	<u>(75,431)</u>	<u>150,861</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Capital Assets, Net	<u><u>\$ 75,431</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (75,431)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>

NOTE 6 - PURCHASED SERVICES

For the year ended June 30, 2023, purchased service expenses were as follows:

Purchased Services	Amount
Personnel Services	\$ 7,793
Professional Services	384,591
Sponsor Fees	24,806
Property Services	7,505
Utilities	44,235
Marketing	17,225
Total	<u><u>\$ 486,155</u></u>

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NOTE 7 – LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS

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

	Balance 6/30/2022	Additions	Reductions	Balance 6/30/2023	Due Within One Year
Direct Borrowings:					
Loans Payable - IFF	\$ 71,214	\$ -	\$ (49,651)	\$ 21,563	\$ 21,563
Building Lease Payable	<u>78,147</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(78,147)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Long-Term Obligations	<u><u>\$ 149,361</u></u>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (127,798)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 21,563</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 21,563</u></u>

On July 23, 2018, the Academy secured a \$199,500 loan with IFF, an Illinois not for profit corporation, for start-up operations. The loan is for a term of five years with interest at 5.875% per annum. Per the loan agreement, interest on advances was paid through December 1, 2018. Monthly principal and interest payments in equal monthly installments began December 1, 2018, with loan maturity occurring on November 1, 2023. During August 2019 the Academy obtained an amendment to the loan agreement. This first amendment provided for the deferral of monthly payments between May 1, 2019 and October 1, 2019.

On July 1, 2018, the Academy entered into a lease with Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland as trustee for Holy Spirit Parish for 30,315 square feet of space located at 4131 East 131st St., Garfield Heights, Ohio 44105. The term of the lease is for a period of five years. The incremental borrowing rate on the lease is 8.75%. One June 29, 2023, the Academy executed a one-year renewal agreement on the building lease, which does not qualify as a long-term lease under the accounting standards.

A summary of the principal and interest amounts for the remaining long-term obligations is as follows:

Loans Payable		
Principal	Interest	Total
<u>\$ 21,563</u>	<u>\$ 317</u>	<u>\$ 21,880</u>

NOTE 8 - RISK MANAGEMENT

Property and Liability Insurance

The Academy 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. For fiscal year 2022, the Academy contracted with Maxum Indemnity for property and liability insurance and Indian Harbor Insurance Company for educator liability and school leaders' errors and omissions insurance.

General property and liability insurance are covered at \$1,000,000 single occurrence limit and \$2,000,000 aggregated. Other coverage includes Crime, Educators Liability, School Leaders Errors & Omissions, Cyber Liability and Business Interruption. There have been no claims to date against these policies.

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Workers' Compensation

The Academy makes premium payments to the Ohio Workers' Compensation System for employee injury coverage. There have been no claims filed by the Academy employees with the Ohio Workers' Compensation System between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023.

Employee Medical, Dental and Vision Benefits

The Academy provides medical, dental and vision insurance benefits to all full-time employees. Employees participate in premium payments through pretax payroll deductions. Total insurance benefits paid by the Academy for the fiscal year is \$93,889.

NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN

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

Net Pension Liability/Net OPEB Liability (Asset)

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

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

Ohio Revised Code limits the Academy's obligation for this liability to annually required payments. The Academy cannot control benefit terms or the manner in which pensions/OPEB are financed; however, the Academy 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

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the changes are legally enforceable. The Ohio revised Code permits, but does not require the retirement systems to provide healthcare to eligible benefit recipients.

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

The remainder of this note includes the required pension disclosures. See Note 10 for the required OPEB disclosures.

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

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

Age and service requirements for retirement are as follows:

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

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

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

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

Funding Policy – Plan members are required to contribute 10 percent of their annual covered salary and the Academy 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

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contribution rate among four of the System's funds (Pension Trust Fund, Death Benefit Fund, Medicare B Fund, and Health Care Fund). For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, the allocation to pension, death benefits, and Medicare B was 14.0 percent. For fiscal year 2023, the Retirement Board did not allocate any employer contribution to the Health Care Fund.

The Academy's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$14,765 for fiscal year 2023.

Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

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

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

The DB Plan offers an annual retirement allowance based on final average salary multiplied by a percentage that varies based on years of service. Effective August 1, 2015, the calculation is 2.2 percent of final average salary for the five highest years of earnings multiplied by all years of service. Effective August 1, 2017 – July 1, 2019, any member could retire with reduced benefits who had (1) five years of service credit and age 60; (2) 27 years of service credit and age 55; or (3) 30 years of service credit regardless of age. Effective August 1, 2019 – July 1, 2021, any member may retire with reduced benefits who has (1) five years of service credit and age 60; (2) 28 years of service credit and age 55; or (3) 30 years of service credit regardless of age. Eligibility changes will continue to be phased in until August 1, 2023, when retirement eligibility for unreduced benefits will be five years of service credit and age 65, or 35 years of service credit and at least age 60.

Eligibility changes for 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 9.53 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 4.47 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

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fund the defined benefit payment at a reduced level from the regular DB Plan. The defined benefit portion of the Combined plan payment is payable to a member on or after age 60 with five years of service. The defined contribution portion of the account may be taken as a lump sum payment or converted to a lifetime monthly annuity at age 50 and after termination of employment.

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

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

Funding Policy – Employer and member contribution rates are established by the State Teachers Retirement Board and limited by Chapter 3307 of the Ohio Revised Code. The 2023 employer and employee contribution rate of 14 percent was equal to the statutory maximum rates. For 2023, the full employer contribution was allocated to pension.

The Academy's contractually required contribution to STRS was \$87,948 for fiscal year 2023.

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

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

	SERS	STRS	Total
Proportion of the Net Pension Liability:			
Current Measurement Date	0.0039682%	0.00527018%	
Prior Measurement Date	0.0030074%	0.00410043%	
Change in Proportionate Share	<u>0.0009608%</u>	<u>0.00116975%</u>	
Proportionate Share of the Net			
Pension Liability	\$ 214,631	\$ 1,171,569	\$ 1,386,200
Pension Expense	\$ 66,754	\$ 359,829	\$ 426,583

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

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differences between projected and actual investment earnings are similarly recognized over a closed five year period.

At June 30, 2023, the Academy reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	SERS	STRS	Total
Deferred Outflows of Resources			
Differences between Expected and Actual Experience	\$ 8,693	\$ 14,996	\$ 23,689
Net Difference between Projected and Actual Earnings on Pension Plan Investments	- -	40,769	40,769
Changes of Assumptions	2,118	140,201	142,319
Changes in Proportion and Differences between Academy Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	52,540	500,614	553,154
Academy Contributions Subsequent to the Measurement Date	14,765	87,948	102,713
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>\$ 78,116</u>	<u>\$ 784,528</u>	<u>\$ 862,644</u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources			
Differences between Expected and Actual Experience	\$ 1,409	\$ 4,481	\$ 5,890
Net Difference between Projected and Actual Earnings on Pension Plan Investments	7,486	- -	7,486
Changes of Assumptions	- -	105,532	105,532
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>\$ 8,895</u>	<u>\$ 110,013</u>	<u>\$ 118,908</u>

\$102,713 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pension resulting from Academy contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. 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:			
2024	\$ 35,680	\$ 226,444	\$ 262,124
2025	17,028	144,457	161,485
2026	(10,697)	96,850	86,153
2027	12,445	118,816	131,261
Total	<u>\$ 54,456</u>	<u>\$ 586,567</u>	<u>\$ 641,023</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,

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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.

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, 2022 and June 30, 2021, 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 investment expense, including inflation
COLA or Ad Hoc COLA	2.00 percent, on and after April 1, 2018, COLA's for future retirees will be delayed for three years following commencement

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

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

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

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

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

Discount Rate The total pension liability for 2022 was calculated using the discount rate of 7.00 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed the contributions from employers and from the members would be computed based on contribution requirements as stipulated by State statute. 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.

Sensitivity of the Academy'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 Academy's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 7.00 percent, as well as what the Academy's net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.00 percent), or one percentage point higher (8.00 percent) than the current rate.

	Current		
	1% Decrease	Discount Rate	1% Increase
Academy's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 315,927	\$ 214,631	\$ 129,291

Actuarial Assumptions - STRS

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

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Inflation	2.50 percent
Salary Increases	
Current Measurement Period	Varies by service from 2.50 percent to 8.50 percent
Prior Measurement Period	Varies by age from 2.50 percent to 12.50 percent
Payroll Increases	3.00 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation
Discount Rate of Return	7.00 percent
Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA)	0.00 percent effective July 1, 2017

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

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

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

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

Asset Class	Target	Long-Term Expected
	Allocation*	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>	

*Target allocation percentage is effective as of July 1, 2022. Target weights were phased in over a 3-month period concluding on October 1, 2022.

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

Discount Rate. The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.00 percent as of June 30, 2022. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumes that 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, 2022. 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, 2022.

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

	1% Decrease	Current	1% Increase
Academy's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 1,769,812	\$ 1,171,569	\$ 665,638

Changes between the Measurement Date and the Reporting Date The discount rate was adjusted to 7.00 percent for the June 30, 2022 valuation. Demographic assumptions were changed based on the actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2021.

NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS

See Note 9 for a description of the net OPEB liability (asset).

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

Health Care Plan Description - The Academy 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

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enrolled in a fully insured Medicare Advantage plan; however, SERS maintains a traditional, self-insured preferred provider organization for its non-Medicare retiree population. For both groups, SERS offers a self-insured prescription drug program. Health care is a benefit that is permitted, not mandated, by statute. The financial report of the Plan is included in the SERS Annual Comprehensive Financial Report which can be obtained on SERS' website at www.ohsers.org under Employers/Audit Resources.

Access to health care for retirees and beneficiaries is permitted in accordance with Section 3309 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Health Care Fund was established and is administered in accordance with Internal Revenue Code Section 105(e). SERS' Retirement Board reserves the right to change or discontinue any health plan or program. Active employee members do not contribute to the Health Care Plan. 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 2023, 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 2023, this amount was \$25,000. Statutes provide that no employer shall pay a health care surcharge greater than 2 percent of that employer's SERS-covered payroll; nor may SERS collect in aggregate more than 1.5 percent of the total statewide SERS-covered payroll for the health care surcharge. For fiscal year 2023, the Academy's surcharge obligation was \$1,997, which is reported as an intergovernmental payable. 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 Academy's contractually required contribution to SERS was equal to its surcharge obligation for fiscal year 2023.

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. The Plan is included in the report of STRS which can be obtained by visiting www.strsoh.org or by calling (888) 227-7877.

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

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

The net OPEB liability (asset) was measured as of June 30, 2022, and the total OPEB liability used to calculate the net OPEB liability (asset) was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The Academy's proportion of the net OPEB liability (asset) was based on the Academy's share of contributions to the respective retirement systems relative to the contributions of all participating entities.

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

	SERS	STRS	Total
Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset):			
Current Measurement Date	0.0040910%	0.00527018%	
Prior Measurement Date	0.0031164%	0.00410043%	
Change in Proportionate Share	<u>0.0009746%</u>	<u>0.00116975%</u>	
Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset)	\$ 57,438	\$ (136,463)	
OPEB Expense	\$ 13,446	\$ (22,634)	\$ (9,188)

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

At June 30, 2023, the Academy reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

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	SERS	STRS	Total
Deferred Outflows of Resources			
Differences between Expected and Actual Experience	\$ 485	\$ 1,980	\$ 2,465
Net Difference between Projected and Actual Earnings on OPEB Plan Investments	298	2,376	2,674
Changes of Assumptions	9,136	5,813	14,949
Changes in Proportion and Differences between Academy Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	73,480	6,811	80,291
Academy Contributions Subsequent to the Measurement Date	1,997	-	1,997
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>\$ 85,396</u>	<u>\$ 16,980</u>	<u>\$ 102,376</u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources			
Differences between Expected and Actual Experience	\$ 36,739	\$ 20,495	\$ 57,234
Net Difference between Projected and Actual Earnings on OPEB Plan Investments	-	-	-
Changes of Assumptions	23,578	96,764	120,342
Changes in Proportion and Differences between Academy Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	-	918	918
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>\$ 60,317</u>	<u>\$ 118,177</u>	<u>\$ 178,494</u>

\$1,997 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB resulting from Academy contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction/addition to the net OPEB liability/asset in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in OPEB expense as follows:

Fiscal Year Ending June 30:	SERS	STRS	Total
2024	\$ 5,819	\$ (29,337)	\$ (23,518)
2025	5,918	(28,873)	(22,955)
2026	4,508	(12,632)	(8,124)
2027	4,303	(5,976)	(1,673)
2028	2,371	(7,968)	(5,597)
Thereafter	163	(16,411)	(16,248)
Total	<u>\$ 23,082</u>	<u>\$ (101,197)</u>	<u>\$ (78,115)</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

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

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

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

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

Inflation	2.40 percent
Salary Increases, including inflation	3.25 percent to 13.58 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent net of investment expense, including inflation
Fiduciary Net Position Depletion	Projected to be 2044
Municipal Bond Index Rate	
Measurement Date	3.69 percent
Prior Measurement Date	1.92 percent
Single Equivalent Interest Rate	
Measurement Date	4.08 percent, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation
Prior Measurement Date	2.27 percent, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation
Health Care Cost Trend Rate	
Medicare	5.125 percent - 4.40 percent
Pre-Medicare	6.750 percent - 4.40 percent
Medical Trend Assumption	7.00 percent - 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.

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

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

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

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

Discount Rate The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability at June 30, 2022, was 4.08 percent. The discount rate used to measure total OPEB liability prior to June 30, 2022 was 2.27 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions will be made from members and the plan at the contribution rate of 1.50 percent of projected covered payroll each year, which includes a 1.50 percent payroll surcharge and no contributions from the basic benefits plan. Based on these assumptions, the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position was projected to become insufficient to make all projected future benefit payments of current System members by SERS actuaries. The Municipal Bond Index Rate is used in the determination of the SEIR for both the June 30, 2022 and the June 30, 2021 total OPEB liability. The Municipal Bond Index rate is the single rate that will generate a present value of benefit payments equal to the sum of the present value determined by the long-term expected rate of return, and the present value determined by discounting those benefits after the date of depletion. The Municipal Bond Index Rate is 3.69 percent at June 30, 2022 and 1.92 percent at June 30, 2021.

Sensitivity of the Academy'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

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percentage point lower (3.08 percent) and higher (5.08 percent) than the current discount rate (4.08 percent). Also shown is what the net OPEB liability would be based on health care cost trend rates that are one percentage point lower (6.00 percent decreasing to 3.40 percent) and higher (8.00 percent decreasing to 5.40 percent) than the current rate (7.00 percent decreasing to 4.40 percent).

	Current		
	1% Decrease	Discount Rate	1% Increase
Academy's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	\$ 71,339	\$ 57,438	\$ 46,216
	1% Decrease	Current Trend Rate	1% Increase
Academy's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	\$ 44,295	\$ 57,438	\$ 74,605

Actuarial Assumptions – STRS

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

	June 30, 2022	June 30, 2021
Projected Salary Increases	Varies by service from 2.5 percent to 8.5 percent	Varies by age from 2.5 percent to 12.50 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation	7.00 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation
Payroll Increases	3 percent	3 percent
Discount Rate of Return	7.00 percent	7.00 percent
Health Care Cost Trends		
Medical		
Pre-Medicare	7.50 percent initial 3.94 percent ultimate	5.00 percent initial 4 percent ultimate
Medicare	-68.78 percent initial 3.94 percent ultimate	-16.18 percent initial 4 percent ultimate
Prescription Drug		
Pre-Medicare	9.00 percent initial 3.94 percent ultimate	6.50 percent initial 4 percent ultimate
Medicare	-5.47 percent initial 3.94 percent ultimate	29.98 percent initial 4 percent ultimate

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

For 2022, 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. For 2021, healthy retirees the mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Annuitant Mortality Table with 50

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

Actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2022, valuation are based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2021. An actuarial experience study is done on a quinquennial basis.

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

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

*Target allocation percentage is effective as of July 1, 2022. Target weights were phased in over a 3-month period concluding on October 1, 2022.

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

Discount Rate The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability was 7.00 percent as of June 30, 2022. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed STRS continues to allocate no employer contributions to the health care fund. Based on 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, 2022. 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, 2022.

Sensitivity of the Academy's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Asset to Changes in the Discount Rate and Health Care Cost Trend Rate The following table represents the net OPEB asset as of June 30, 2022, calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 7.00 percent, as well as what the net OPEB asset would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.00 percent) or one percentage point higher (8.00 percent) than the current assumption. Also shown is the net OPEB asset as 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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	Current		
	1% Decrease	Discount Rate	1% Increase
Academy's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB (Asset)	\$ (126,156)	\$ (136,463)	\$ (145,291)
Academy's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB (Asset)	1% Decrease	Current Trend Rate	1% Increase
	\$ (141,545)	\$ (136,463)	\$ (130,047)

NOTE 11 - CONTINGENCIES

Grants

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

Litigation

The Academy 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 – SPONSOR

The Academy has a sponsorship contract with Buckeye Community Hope Foundation (BCHF), for educational and management services. In exchange for its time, organization, oversight, monitoring, fees, costs, and other services, BCHF receives three percent of the total foundation payments that the Academy received from the State of Ohio.

Effective June 30, 2023 the Academy's sponsor changed to ODE Office of Community School Sponsorship and has an initial term of 2 years.

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Required Supplementary Information
Schedule of the Academy's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability
Last Four Fiscal Years (1)

	2023	2022	2021	2020
<i>School Employees Retirement System (SERS)</i>				
The Academy's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	0.00396820%	0.00300740%	0.00183550%	0.00113020%
The Academy's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 214,631	\$ 110,964	\$ 121,404	\$ 67,622
The Academy's Covered Payroll	\$ 151,986	\$ 103,807	\$ 64,350	\$ 38,770
The Academy's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	141.22%	106.89%	188.66%	174.42%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	75.82%	82.86%	68.55%	70.85%
<i>State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)</i>				
The Academy's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	0.00527018%	0.00410043%	0.00244679%	0.00197078%
The Academy's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 1,171,569	\$ 524,277	\$ 592,036	\$ 435,826
The Academy's Covered Payroll	\$ 685,150	\$ 505,964	\$ 295,286	\$ 231,379
The Academy's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	170.99%	103.62%	200.50%	188.36%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	78.90%	87.80%	75.50%	77.40%

(1) Information prior to 2020 is not available.

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

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

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Required Supplementary Information
Schedule of the Academy's Contributions - Pension
Last Five Fiscal Years (1)

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
<i>School Employees Retirement System (SERS)</i>					
Contractually Required Contribution	\$ 14,765	\$ 21,278	\$ 14,533	\$ 9,009	\$ 5,234
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	<u>(14,765)</u>	<u>(21,278)</u>	<u>(14,533)</u>	<u>(9,009)</u>	<u>(5,234)</u>
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>				
The Academy's Covered Payroll	\$ 105,464	\$ 151,986	\$ 103,807	\$ 64,350	\$ 38,770
Pension Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	13.50%
<i>State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)</i>					
Contractually Required Contribution	\$ 87,948	\$ 95,921	\$ 70,835	\$ 41,340	\$ 32,393
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	<u>(87,948)</u>	<u>(95,921)</u>	<u>(70,835)</u>	<u>(41,340)</u>	<u>(32,393)</u>
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>				
The Academy's Covered Payroll	\$ 628,200	\$ 685,150	\$ 505,964	\$ 295,286	\$ 231,379
Pension Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%

(1) Information prior to fiscal year 2019 is unavailable

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

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Required Supplementary Information
Schedule of the Academy's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability/(Asset)
Last Four Fiscal Years (1)

	2023	2022	2021	2020
<i>School Employees Retirement System (SERS)</i>				
The Academy's Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability	0.00409100%	0.00311604%	0.00171600%	0.00116200%
The Academy's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	\$ 57,438	\$ 58,980	\$ 37,303	\$ 29,227
The Academy's Covered Payroll	\$ 151,986	\$ 103,807	\$ 64,350	\$ 38,770
The Academy's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	37.79%	56.82%	57.97%	75.39%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total OPEB Liability	30.34%	24.08%	18.17%	15.57%
<i>State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)</i>				
Academy's Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability/(Asset)	0.00527018%	0.00410043%	0.00244700%	0.00197100%
Academy's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability/(Asset)	\$ (136,463)	\$ (86,445)	\$ (43,006)	\$ (32,644)
Academy's Covered Payroll	\$ 685,150	\$ 505,964	\$ 295,286	\$ 231,379
Academy's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability/(Asset) as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	-19.92%	-17.09%	-14.56%	-14.11%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total OPEB Liability	230.73%	174.73%	182.10%	174.70%

(1) Information prior to 2020 is not available.

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

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

SMART Academy
Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Required Supplementary Information
Schedule of the Academy's Contributions - OPEB
Last Five Fiscal Years (2)

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
<i>School Employees Retirement System (SERS)</i>					
Contractually Required Contribution (1)	\$ 1,997	\$ 2,843	\$ 2,073	\$ 212	\$ 922
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	<u>(1,997)</u>	<u>(2,843)</u>	<u>(2,073)</u>	<u>(212)</u>	<u>(922)</u>
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>				
The Academy's Covered Payroll	\$ 105,464	\$ 151,986	\$ 103,807	\$ 64,350	\$ 38,770
OPEB Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll (1)	1.89%	1.87%	2.00%	0.33%	2.38%
<i>State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)</i>					
Contractually Required Contribution	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>				
The Academy's Covered Payroll	\$ 628,200	\$ 685,150	\$ 505,964	\$ 295,286	\$ 231,379
OPEB Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

(1) Includes surcharge

(2) Information prior to 2019 not available.

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

SMART Academy
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Notes to the Required Supplementary Information
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 1 - NET PENSION LIABILITY

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

Changes in Assumptions - SERS

For fiscal year 2022, the SERS Board adopted the following assumption changes:

- Assumed rate of inflation was reduced from 3.00 percent to 2.40 percent
- Payroll growth assumption was reduced from 3.50 percent to 1.75 percent
- Assumed real wage growth was reduced from 0.50 percent to 0.85 percent
- Discount rate was reduced from 7.50 percent to 7.00 percent
- Rates of withdrawal, retirement and disability were updated to reflect recent experience.
- Mortality among active members, service retirees and beneficiaries, and disabled members were updated.

For fiscal year 2017, the SERS Board adopted the following assumption changes:

- Assumed rate of inflation was reduced from 3.25 percent to 3.00 percent
- Payroll Growth Assumption was reduced from 4.00 percent to 3.50 percent
- Assumed real wage growth was reduced from 0.75 percent to 0.50 percent
- Rates of withdrawal, retirement and disability were updated to reflect recent experience.
- 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.
- Mortality among service retired members, and beneficiaries was updated to RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with fully generational projection with Scale BB, 120 percent of male rates, and 110 percent of female rates.
- Mortality among disabled members was updated to RP-2000 Disabled Mortality Table, 90 percent for male rates and 100 percent for female rates, set back five years is used for the period after disability retirement.

Changes in Benefit Terms - SERS

For fiscal year 2022, cost-of-living adjustments were increased from 2.00 percent to 2.50 percent.

For fiscal year 2021, cost-of-living adjustments were reduced from 2.50 percent to 2.00 percent.

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

SMART Academy
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Notes to the Required Supplementary Information
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Changes in Assumptions – STRS

For fiscal year 2022, the Retirement Board approved several changes to the actuarial assumptions. The salary increases were where changed from 12.50 percent at age 20 to 2.50 percent at age 65 to varying by service from 2.50 percent to 8.50 percent. The healthy and disabled mortality assumptions were updated to the Pub-2010 mortality tables with generational improvement scale MP-2020.

For fiscal year 2021, the long term expected rate of return was reduced from 7.45 percent to 7.00 percent.

For fiscal year 2018, the Retirement Board approved several changes to the actuarial assumptions in 2017. The long term expected rate of return was reduced from 7.75 percent to 7.45 percent, the inflation assumption was lowered from 2.75 percent to 2.50 percent, the payroll growth assumption was lowered to 3.00 percent, and total salary increases rate was lowered by decreasing the merit component of the individual salary increases, in addition to a decrease of 0.25 percent due to lower inflation. The healthy and disabled mortality assumptions were updated to the RP-2014 mortality tables with generational improvement scale MP-2016. Rates of retirement, termination and disability were modified to better reflect anticipated future experience.

Changes in Benefit Terms - STRS

For fiscal year 2018, the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) was reduced to zero.

NOTE 2 - NET OPEB LIABILITY (ASSET)

Changes in Assumptions – SERS

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

Municipal Bond Index Rate:

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

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

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

SMART Academy
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Notes to the Required Supplementary Information
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Pre-Medicare Trend Assumption

Fiscal year 2023	6.75 percent initially, decreasing to 4.40 percent
Fiscal year 2022	6.75 percent initially, decreasing to 4.40 percent
Fiscal year 2021	7.00 percent initially, decreasing to 4.75 percent
Fiscal year 2020	7.00 percent initially, decreasing to 4.75 percent
Fiscal year 2019	7.25 percent initially, decreasing to 4.75 percent
Fiscal year 2018	7.50 percent initially, decreasing to 4.00 percent

Medicare Trend Assumption

Fiscal year 2023	7.00 percent initially, decreasing to 4.40 percent
Fiscal year 2022	5.125 percent initially, decreasing to 4.40 percent
Fiscal year 2021	5.25 percent initially, decreasing to 4.75 percent
Fiscal year 2020	5.25 percent initially, decreasing to 4.75 percent
Fiscal year 2019	5.375 percent initially, decreasing to 4.75 percent
Fiscal year 2018	5.50 percent initially, decreasing to 5.00 percent

Changes in Benefit Terms - SERS

There have been no changes to the benefit provisions.

Changes in Assumptions – STRS

For fiscal year 2022, the healthy and disabled mortality assumptions were updated to the RPub-2010 mortality tables with generational improvement scale MP-2020. Rates of retirement, termination and disability were modified to better reflect anticipated future experience.

For fiscal year 2022, the following changes were made to the actuarial assumptions:

- Projected salary increases from 3.25 to 10.75 percent, including wage inflation to varying by service from 2.50 to 8.50 percent
- Medicare medical health care cost trends from -16.18 percent initial to -68.78 percent initial and 4.00 percent ultimate to 3.94 percent ultimate
- Medicare prescription drug health care cost trends from 29.98 percent initial to -5.47 percent initial and 4.00 percent ultimate to 3.94 percent ultimate

For fiscal year 2021, valuation year per capita health care costs were updated. Health care cost trend rates ranged from -5.20 percent to 9.60 percent initially for fiscal year 2020 and changed for fiscal year 2021 to a range of -6.69 percent to 11.87 percent, initially.

For fiscal year 2019, the discount rate was increased from the blended rate of 4.13 percent to the long-term expected rate of return of 7.45 percent. Valuation year per capita health care costs were updated. Health care cost trend rates ranged from 6.00 percent to 11 percent initially and a 4.50 percent ultimate rate for fiscal year 2018 and changed for fiscal year 2019 to a range of -5.20 percent to 9.60 percent, initially and a 4.00 ultimate rate.

For fiscal year 2018, the blended discount rate was increased from 3.26 percent to 4.13 percent. Valuation year per capita health care costs were updated, and the salary scale was modified. The percentage of future retirees electing each option was updated based on current data and the percentage of future disabled retirees

SMART Academy
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Notes to the Required Supplementary Information
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

and terminated vested participants electing health coverage were decreased. The assumed mortality, disability, retirement, withdrawal and future health care cost trend rates were modified along with the portion of rebated prescription drug costs.

Changes in Benefit Terms – STRS

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

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

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

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

**SMART ACADEMY
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

FEDERAL GRANTOR <i>Pass Through Grantor</i> <i>Program / Cluster Title</i>	Federal AL Number	Total Federal Expenditures
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE <i>Passed Through Ohio Department of Department</i>		
<i>Child Nutrition Cluster:</i>		
School Breakfast Program	10.553	\$27,580
National School Lunch Program	10.555	77,531
Total Child Nutrition Cluster		<u>105,111</u>
Total U.S. Department of Agriculture		<u>105,111</u>
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION <i>Passed Through Ohio Department of Education</i>		
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010	142,453
<i>Special Education Cluster (IDEA):</i>		
Special Education - Grants to States (IDEA, Part B)	84.027	23,095
Special Education - Preschool Grants (IDEA Preschool)	84.173	2,277
Total Special Education Cluster (IDEA)		<u>25,372</u>
Supporting Effective Instruction to States	84.367	9,847
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program	84.424	11,200
Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund - ESSER II - COVID-19	84.425D	74,508
Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund - American Rescue Plan - COVID-19	84.425U	431,359
Total Education Stabilization Fund		<u>505,867</u>
Total U.S. Department of Education		<u>694,739</u>
Total Expenditures of Federal Awards		<u>\$799,850</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

**SMART ACADEMY
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
2 CFR 200.510(b)(6)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

NOTE A – BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (the Schedule) includes the federal award activity of the SMART Academy (the Academy) under programs of the federal government for the year ended June 30, 2023. The information on this Schedule is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Because the Schedule presents only a selected portion of the operations of the Academy, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position, changes in net position, or cash flows of the Academy.

NOTE B – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Expenditures reported on the Schedule are reported on the accrual basis of accounting. Such expenditures are recognized following the cost principles contained in Uniform Guidance wherein certain types of expenditures may or may not be allowable or may be limited as to reimbursement.

NOTE C – INDIRECT COST RATE

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

NOTE D - CHILD NUTRITION CLUSTER

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

NOTE E - TRANSFERS BETWEEN PROGRAM YEARS

Federal regulations require schools to obligate certain federal awards by June 30. However, with the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce's consent, schools can transfer unobligated amounts to the subsequent fiscal year's program. The Academy transferred the following amounts from 2023 to 2024 programs:

<u>Program Title</u>	<u>AL Number</u>	<u>Amount Transferred</u>
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010	\$2,261
Special Education - Preschool Grants (IDEA Preschool)	84.173	457
Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief		
Fund - American Rescue Plan - COVID-19	84.425U	214,039



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

SMART Academy
Cuyahoga County
4351 East 131st Street
Garfield Heights, Ohio 44105

To the Board of Directors:

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*), the financial statements of the SMART Academy, Cuyahoga County, (the Academy) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Academy's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated February 6, 2025.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Academy'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 Academy's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Academy'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 Academy'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.

SMART Academy
Cuyahoga County
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over
Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters
Required by *Government Auditing Standards*
Page 2

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

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

Purpose of this Report

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



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

February 6, 2025



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

SMART Academy
Cuyahoga County
4351 East 131st Street
Garfield Heights, Ohio 44105

To the Board of Directors:

Report on Compliance for the Major Federal Program

Opinion on the Major Federal Program

We have audited the SMART Academy's, Cuyahoga County, (the Academy) compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) *Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on the Academy's major federal program for the year ended June 30, 2023. The Academy's major federal program is identified in the *Summary of Auditor's Results* section of the accompanying schedule of findings.

In our opinion, the Academy complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on its major federal program for the year ended June 30, 2023.

Basis for Opinion on the Major Federal Program

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

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

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on the Academy's compliance based on our audit. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material, if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about the Academy's compliance with the requirements of the major federal program as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the Academy's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- Obtain an understanding of the Academy's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Academy's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

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

Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

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

SMART Academy
Cuyahoga County
Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance With Requirements
Applicable to the Major Federal Program And on Internal Control Over
Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance
Page 3

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

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

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



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

February 6, 2025

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SMART ACADEMY
CUYAHOGA COUNTY

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
2 CFR § 200.515
JUNE 30, 2023

1. SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS

(d)(1)(i)	Type of Financial Statement Opinion	Unmodified
(d)(1)(ii)	Were there any material weaknesses in internal control reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
(d)(1)(ii)	Were there any significant deficiencies in internal control reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
(d)(1)(iii)	Was there any reported material noncompliance at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
(d)(1)(iv)	Were there any material weaknesses in internal control reported for major federal programs?	No
(d)(1)(iv)	Were there any significant deficiencies in internal control reported for major federal programs?	No
(d)(1)(v)	Type of Major Program's Compliance Opinion	Unmodified
(d)(1)(vi)	Are there any reportable findings under 2 CFR § 200.516(a)?	No
(d)(1)(vii)	Major Program:	AL #84.425 – Education Stabilization Fund
(d)(1)(viii)	Dollar Threshold: Type A\B Programs	Type A: > \$ 750,000 Type B: all others
(d)(1)(ix)	Low Risk Auditee under 2 CFR § 200.520?	No

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

None

3. FINDINGS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS

None

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



SMART ACADEMY

CUYAHOGA COUNTY

AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO CERTIFICATION

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



Certified for Release 3/4/2025

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