



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



**SMART ACADEMY
CUYAHOGA COUNTY
JUNE 30, 2024**

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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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, 2024, 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, Cuyahoga County, Ohio as of June 30, 2024, and the changes in financial position and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. 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.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated May 20, 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

May 20, 2025

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SMART Academy
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024
(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, 2024. 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 \$189,011 from 2023.
- Total assets decreased \$29,514 and total liabilities decreased \$265,198 during 2024.

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, 2024. 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

SMART Academy
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024
(Unaudited)

GASB notes that pension and OPEB obligations, whether funded or unfunded, are part of the “employment exchange” – that is, the employee is trading his or her labor in exchange for wages, benefits, and the promise of a future pension and other postemployment benefits. GASB noted that the unfunded portion of this promise is a present obligation of the government, part of a bargained-for benefit to the employee, and should accordingly be reported by the government as a liability since they received the benefit of the exchange. However, the 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, 2024
(Unaudited)

Statement of Net Position

The Statement of Net Position answers the question of how well the Academy performed financially during 2024. 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 2024 and 2023.

(Table 1)
Statement of Net Position

	2024	2023	Change
Assets			
Current Assets	\$ 101,517	\$ 85,023	\$ 16,494
Non-Current Assets	96,647	142,655	(46,008)
<i>Total Assets</i>	<u>198,164</u>	<u>227,678</u>	<u>(29,514)</u>
 Deferred Outflows	 <u>608,326</u>	 <u>965,020</u>	 <u>(356,694)</u>
 Liabilities			
Current Liabilities	109,532	131,259	(21,727)
Long Term Liabilities	1,200,167	1,443,638	(243,471)
<i>Total Liabilities</i>	<u>1,309,699</u>	<u>1,574,897</u>	<u>(265,198)</u>
 Deferred Inflows	 <u>365,403</u>	 <u>297,402</u>	 <u>68,001</u>
 Net Position			
Restricted for OPEB	90,455	35,266	55,189
Unrestricted	(959,067)	(714,867)	(244,200)
<i>Total Net Position</i>	<u>\$ (868,612)</u>	<u>\$ (679,601)</u>	<u>\$ (189,011)</u>

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, 2024
(Unaudited)

Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position

Table 2 shows the changes in net position for fiscal year 2024 and 2023.

(Table 2)
Change in Net Position

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>Change</u>
Operating Revenue	\$ 813,586	\$ 789,862	\$ 23,724
Non-Operating Revenue	<u>608,173</u>	<u>983,182</u>	<u>(375,009)</u>
Total Revenue	<u>1,421,759</u>	<u>1,773,044</u>	<u>(351,285)</u>
Operating Expenses	1,610,452	1,991,815	(381,363)
Non-Operating Expenses	<u>318</u>	<u>5,916</u>	<u>(5,598)</u>
Total Expenses	<u>1,610,770</u>	<u>1,997,731</u>	<u>(386,961)</u>
Change In Net Position	<u><u>\$ (189,011)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (224,687)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 35,676</u></u>

The Academy's revenues in 2024 were based on the Academy's full-time equivalent (FTE) and the Academy's federal grant funding awards. Non-operating revenue decreased significantly as a result of COVID-19 federal grant programs are coming to a close.

Pension and OPEB expense decreased due to changes associated to the Academy's proportionate share of the net pension liability, net OPEB liability/asset and related accruals. This decrease was the primary reason for the decrease in operating expenses. As previously indicated, these items are explained in detail within their respective notes.

Long-Term Debt

As of June 30, 2024, the Academy's loan was paid in full. See Note 7 for additional information on loans payable.

Current Financial Issues

SMART Academy received revenue for 74 students in 2024 and 100 students in 2023. State law governing community schools allows for the Academy to have open enrollment across traditional school district boundaries.

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

SMART Academy
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024
(Unaudited)

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, 2024

Assets

Current Assets

Cash	\$ 65,982
Grant Funding Receivable	9,139
Due from Other Governments	20,077
Prepaid Items	3,478
State Aid Receivable	2,841
<i>Total Current Assets</i>	<u>101,517</u>

Noncurrent Assets

Security Deposit	6,192
Net OPEB Asset	<u>90,455</u>
<i>Total Noncurrent Assets</i>	<u>96,647</u>

Total Assets

198,164

Deferred Outflows of Resources

Pension	513,228
OPEB	95,098
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>608,326</u>

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	12,822
Accrued Wages and Benefits	96,710
<i>Total Current Liabilities</i>	<u>109,532</u>

Long Term Liabilities

Net Pension Liability	1,153,698
Net OPEB Liability	46,469
<i>Total Long Term Liabilities</i>	<u>1,200,167</u>

Total Liabilities

1,309,699

Deferred Inflows of Resources

Pension	222,373
OPEB	143,030
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>365,403</u>

Net Position

Restricted for OPEB	90,455
Unrestricted	(959,067)
Total Net Position	<u>\$ (868,612)</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, 2024

Operating Revenues

Foundation & Facilities Revenue	\$ 808,071
Casino Tax Distribution	5,515
Total Operating Revenues	813,586

Operating Expenses

Salaries	686,434
Fringe Benefits	429,385
Purchased Services	409,020
Supplies and Materials	56,437
Other	29,176
Total Operating Expenses	1,610,452

Operating Income (Loss)	(796,866)
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Non-Operating Revenues/Expenses

Federal and State Grants	608,096
Interest Expense	(318)
Contributions and Donations	72
Interest Income	5
Net Non-Operating Revenues (Expenses)	607,855

Change in Net Position	(189,011)
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Net Position Beginning of Year	(679,601)
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Net Position End of Year	\$ (868,612)
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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, 2024

Increase (Decrease) In Cash And Cash Equivalents

Cash Flows From Operating Activities

Cash Received From State Aid	\$ 810,745
Cash Payments for Wages and Fringe Benefits	(869,471)
Cash Payments for Goods and Services	(500,856)
Other Cash Payments	(29,176)
<i>Net Cash Used For Operating Activities</i>	<u><u>(588,758)</u></u>

Cash Flows From Noncapital Financing Activities

Cash Received From Grant Programs	621,477
Cash Payments for Principal	(21,563)
Cash Payments for Interest	(318)
Cash Received From Contributions and Donations	72
<i>Net Cash Received From Noncapital Financing Activities</i>	<u><u>599,668</u></u>

Cash Flows From Investing Activities

Cash Received From Interest	5
<i>Net Increase in Cash</i>	<u><u>10,915</u></u>
<i>Cash at Beginning of Year</i>	<u><u>55,067</u></u>
<i>Cash at End of Year</i>	<u><u>\$ 65,982</u></u>

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

Operating Income (Loss)	\$ (796,866)
<u>Adjustments To Reconcile Operating Income (Loss) To Net Cash Used For Operating Activities:</u>	
Changes in Assets, Liabilities, and Deferred Outflows/Inflows:	
Due from Other Governments	(13,646)
State Aid Receivable	(2,841)
Prepays	(2,473)
Deferred Outflows of Resources	356,694
Deferred Inflows of Resources	68,001
Net OPEB Asset	46,008
Net Pension/OPEB Liability	(243,471)
Accounts Payable	(32,926)
Accrued Wages and Benefits Payable	<u><u>32,762</u></u>
Total Adjustments	<u><u>208,108</u></u>
<i>Net Cash Used For Operating Activities</i>	<u><u>\$ (588,758)</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, 2024

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 Ohio Department of Education and Workforce Office of Ohio Community School Sponsorship (DEW) (the Sponsor) for a period commencing June 26, 2023, and ending on June 30, 2025. Under the terms of the contract DEW will provide sponsorship services for a fee. See Note 11 for further discussion of the sponsor services.

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 74 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, 2024

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 schools located in the State of Ohio, community schools are not required to follow the specific budgetary process and limits set forth in the Ohio Revised Code Chapter 5705, unless specifically provided in the contract between the 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, 2024

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 five (5) 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 not able to be carried over into the next 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. This balance is reported with Accrued Wages and Benefits.

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.

SMART Academy
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

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.

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, 2024, 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, 2024, the Academy has implemented certain provisions of GASB Statement No. 99, *Omnibus 2022* and GASB Statement No. 100, *Accounting Changes and Error Corrections*.

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

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to financial guarantees and the classification and reporting of derivative instruments within the scope of Statement 53 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the Academy.

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

NOTE 4 - DEPOSITS

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

NOTE 5 - 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.

Foundation Funding

Academy foundation funding is based on the annualized full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment of each student. However, there is an important nexus between attendance and enrollment for Foundation funding purposes. Community schools must provide documentation that clearly demonstrates students have participated in learning opportunities. The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) is legislatively required to adjust/reconcile funding as enrollment information is updated by schools throughout the State, which can extend past the fiscal year end.

Under Ohio Rev. Code Section 3314.08, DEW may also perform a FTE review for the fiscal year that may result in an additional adjustment to the enrollment information as well as claw backs of Foundation funding due to a lack of evidence to support student participation and other matters of noncompliance. As of the date of this report, ODE performed such a review on the Academy for fiscal year 2024.

As of the date of this report, additional ODE adjustments for fiscal year 2024 are finalized.

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NOTE 6 - PURCHASED SERVICES

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

Purchased Services	Amount
Personnel Services	\$ 52,281
Professional Services	191,190
Sponsor Fees	27,866
Property Services	92,149
Utilities	31,598
Marketing	13,936
Total	<u>\$ 409,020</u>

NOTE 7 – LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS

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

	Balance 6/30/2023	Additions	Reductions	Balance 6/30/2024	Due Within One Year
Direct Borrowings:					
Loans Payable - IFF	\$ 21,563	\$ -	\$ (21,563)	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Total Long-Term Liabilities</i>	<u>\$ 21,563</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (21,563)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<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. This loan was paid in full during FY2024.

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 2024, 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, 2023 and June 30, 2024.

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 \$77,970.

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.

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

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

Age and service requirements for retirement are as follows:

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

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

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

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

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 contribution rate among four of the System's funds (Pension Trust Fund, Death Benefit Fund, Medicare B Fund, and Health Care Fund). For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, the allocation to pension, death

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benefits, and Medicare B was 14.0 percent. For fiscal year 2024, the Retirement Board did not allocate any employer contribution to the Health Care Fund.

The Academy's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$11,420 for fiscal year 2024.

Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Academy's contractually required contribution to STRS was \$80,234 for fiscal year 2024.

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

The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2023, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an independent actuarial valuation as of that date. The 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	0.0027529%	0.00465099%	
Prior Measurement Date	0.0039682%	0.00527018%	
Change in Proportionate Share	-0.0012153%	-0.00061919%	
Proportionate Share of the Net			
Pension Liability	\$ 152,111	\$ 1,001,587	\$ 1,153,698
Pension Expense	\$ 31,041	\$ 280,992	\$ 312,033

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

At June 30, 2024, 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	\$ 6,539	\$ 36,515	\$ 43,054
Changes of Assumptions	1,077	82,486	83,563
Changes in Proportion and Differences between			
Academy Contributions and Proportionate			
Share of Contributions	17,748	277,209	294,957
Academy Contributions Subsequent to the			
Measurement Date	11,420	80,234	91,654
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>\$ 36,784</u>	<u>\$ 476,444</u>	<u>\$ 513,228</u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources			
Differences between Expected and			
Actual Experience	\$ -	\$ 2,224	\$ 2,224
Net Difference between Projected and			
Actual Earnings on Pension Plan Investments	2,139	2,999	5,138
Changes of Assumptions	-	62,089	62,089
Changes in Proportion and Differences between			
Academy Contributions and Proportionate			
Share of Contributions	47,565	105,357	152,922
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>\$ 49,704</u>	<u>\$ 172,669</u>	<u>\$ 222,373</u>

\$91,654 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, 2025. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pension will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Fiscal Year Ending June 30:	SERS	STRS	Total
2025	\$ 1,341	\$ 113,198	\$ 114,539
2026	(23,327)	68,906	45,579
2027	(2,469)	73,148	70,679
2028	115	(31,711)	(31,596)
Total	<u>\$ (24,340)</u>	<u>\$ 223,541</u>	<u>\$ 199,201</u>

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Actuarial Assumptions - SERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The long-term return expectation for the Pension Plan Investments has been determined by using a building-block approach and assumes a time horizon, as defined in SERS' Statement of Investment

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Policy. A forecasted rate of inflation serves as the baseline for the return expectation. Various real return premiums over the baseline inflation rate have been established for each asset class. The long-term expected nominal rate of return has been determined by calculating an arithmetic weighted average of the expected real return premiums for each asset class, adding the projected inflation rate, and adding the expected return from rebalancing uncorrelated asset classes. As of June 30, 2023:

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

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

Sensitivity of the 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.

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
Academy's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 224,509	\$ 152,111	\$ 91,131

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Actuarial Assumptions - STRS

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Final target weights reflected at October 1, 2022.

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

Discount Rate. The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.00 percent as of June 30, 2023. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumes that member and employer contributions will be made at the statutory contribution rates in accordance with rate increases described above. For this purpose, only employer contributions that are intended to fund benefits of

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current plan members and their beneficiaries are included. Based on those assumptions, STRS' fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current plan members as of June 30, 2023. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments of 7.00 percent was applied to all periods of projected benefit payment to determine the total pension liability as of June 30, 2023.

Sensitivity of the 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:

	Current		1% Increase
	1% Decrease	Discount Rate	
Academy's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 1,540,220	\$ 1,001,587	\$ 546,052

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

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

The Health Care program is financed through a combination of employer contributions, recipient premiums, investment returns, and any funds received on behalf of SERS' participation in Medicare

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programs. The System's goal is to maintain a health care reserve account with a 20-year solvency period in order to ensure that fluctuations in the cost of health care do not cause an interruption in the program. However, during any period in which the 20-year solvency period is not achieved, the System shall manage the Health Care Fund on a pay-as-you-go basis.

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

Funding Policy - State statute permits SERS to fund the health care benefits through employer contributions. Each year, after the allocation for statutorily required pensions and benefits, the Retirement Board may allocate the remainder of the employer contribution of 14 percent of covered payroll to the Health Care Fund in accordance with the funding policy. For fiscal year 2024, no allocation was made to health care. An additional health care surcharge on employers is collected for employees earning less than an actuarially determined minimum compensation amount, pro-rated if less than a full year of service credit was earned. For fiscal year 2024, this amount was \$30,000. Statutes provide that no employer shall pay a health care surcharge greater than 2.00 percent of that employer's SERS-covered payroll; nor may SERS collect in aggregate more than 1.50 percent of the total statewide SERS-covered payroll for the health care surcharge. For fiscal year 2024, the Academy's surcharge obligation was \$1,427. 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 2024.

Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

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

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

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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, 2023, and the total OPEB liability used to calculate the net OPEB liability (asset) was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The 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	0.0028207%	0.00465099%	
Prior Measurement Date	0.0040910%	0.00527018%	
Change in Proportionate Share	<u>-0.0012703%</u>	<u>-0.00061919%</u>	
Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset)	\$ 46,469	\$ (90,455)	
OPEB Expense	\$ 10,513	\$ (2,233)	\$ 8,280

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, 2024, 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	\$ 97	\$ 141	\$ 238
Net Difference between Projected and Actual Earnings on OPEB Plan Investments	360	163	523
Changes of Assumptions	15,714	13,324	29,038
Changes in Proportion and Differences between Academy Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	56,185	7,687	63,872
Academy Contributions Subsequent to the Measurement Date	1,427	-	1,427
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>\$ 73,783</u>	<u>\$ 21,315</u>	<u>\$ 95,098</u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources			
Differences between Expected and Actual Experience	\$ 23,966	\$ 13,799	\$ 37,765
Changes of Assumptions	13,196	59,685	72,881
Changes in Proportion and Differences between Academy Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	31,597	787	32,384
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>\$ 68,759</u>	<u>\$ 74,271</u>	<u>\$ 143,030</u>

\$1,427 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB resulting from Academy contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction/addition to the net OPEB liability/asset in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in OPEB expense as follows:

	SERS	STRS	Total
Fiscal Year Ending June 30:			
2025	\$ 6,548	\$ (24,071)	\$ (17,523)
2026	4,716	(9,751)	(5,035)
2027	3,408	(4,101)	(693)
2028	816	(5,866)	(5,050)
2029	(1,876)	(5,474)	(7,350)
Thereafter	<u>(10,015)</u>	<u>(3,693)</u>	<u>(13,708)</u>
Total	<u>\$ 3,597</u>	<u>\$ (52,956)</u>	<u>\$ (49,359)</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, 2023, are presented below:

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

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

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percent for females. Mortality rates for actives is based on PUB-2010 General Amount Weighted Below Median Employee mortality table. Mortality rates are projected using a fully generational projection with Scale MP-2020.

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

The long-term expected rate of return on plan assets is reviewed as part of the actuarial five-year experience study. The most recent study covers fiscal years 2016 through 2020 and was adopted by the Board on April 15, 2021. Several factors are considered in evaluating the long-term rate of return assumption including long-term historical data, estimates inherent in current market data, and a long-normal distribution analysis in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected return, net of investment expense and inflation) were developed by the investment consultant for each major asset class. These ranges were combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return, 7.00 percent, by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and then adding expected inflation. The capital market assumptions developed by the investment consultant are intended for use over a 10-year horizon and may not be useful in setting the long-term rate of return for funding pension plans which covers a longer timeframe. The assumption is intended to be a long-term assumption and is not expected to change absent a significant change in the asset allocation, a change in the inflation assumption, or a fundamental change in the market that alters expected returns in future years.

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

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

Discount Rate The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability at June 30, 2023, was 4.27 percent. The discount rate used to measure total OPEB liability prior to June 30, 2023, was 4.08 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions will be made from members and the plan at the contribution rate of 1.50 percent of projected covered payroll each year, which includes a 1.50 percent payroll surcharge and no contributions from the basic benefits plan. Based on these assumptions, the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be depleted in 2048 by SERS' actuaries. The Fidelity General Obligation 20-year Municipal Bond Index Rate was used in the determination of the single equivalent interest rate for both the June 30, 2022, and the June 30, 2023, total OPEB liability. The Municipal Bond Index rate is the single rate that will generate a present value of

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benefit payments equal to the sum of the present value determined by the long-term expected rate of return, and the present value determined by discounting those benefits after the date of depletion. The Municipal Bond Index Rate is 3.86 percent at June 30, 2023, and 3.69 percent at June 30, 2022.

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

	Current		
	1% Decrease	Discount Rate	1% Increase
Academy's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	\$ 59,401	\$ 46,469	\$ 36,272
	1% Decrease	Current Trend Rate	1% Increase
Academy's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	\$ 34,140	\$ 46,469	\$ 62,808

Actuarial Assumptions – STRS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Final target weights reflected at October 1, 2022.

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

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

Sensitivity of the 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, 2023, calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 7.00 percent, as well as what the net OPEB asset would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.00

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percent) or one percentage point higher (8.00 percent) than the current assumption. Also shown is the net OPEB asset as if it were calculated using health care cost trend rates that are one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current health care cost trend rates.

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
Academy's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB (Asset)	\$ (76,559)	\$ (90,455)	\$ (102,558)
	1% Decrease	Current Trend Rate	1% Increase
Academy's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB (Asset)	\$ (103,120)	\$ (90,455)	\$ (75,202)

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

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

NOTE 11 – SPONSOR

The Academy has a sponsorship contract with the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) Office of Community School Sponsorship for educational and management services. The Sponsor has considered and evaluated the oversight, technical assistance, and monitoring it will provide to the Academy, for and in consideration of providing these services to the Academy, the Academy shall pay the Sponsor a fee of three (3%) percent of the total amount of foundation payments received each year by the Academy from the State of Ohio.

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

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
<i>School Employees Retirement System (SERS)</i>					
The Academy's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	0.00275290%	0.00396820%	0.00300740%	0.00183550%	0.00113020%
The Academy's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 152,111	\$ 214,631	\$ 110,964	\$ 121,404	\$ 67,622
The Academy's Covered Payroll	\$ 105,464	\$ 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	144.23%	141.22%	106.89%	188.66%	174.42%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	76.06%	75.82%	82.86%	68.55%	70.85%
<i>State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)</i>					
The Academy's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	0.00465099%	0.00527018%	0.00410043%	0.00244679%	0.00197078%
The Academy's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 1,001,587	\$ 1,171,569	\$ 524,277	\$ 592,036	\$ 435,826
The Academy's Covered Payroll	\$ 628,200	\$ 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	159.44%	170.99%	103.62%	200.50%	188.36%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	80.02%	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.

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

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
<i>School Employees Retirement System (SERS)</i>						
Contractually Required Contribution	\$ 11,420	\$ 14,765	\$ 21,278	\$ 14,533	\$ 9,009	\$ 5,234
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	<u>(11,420)</u>	<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>					
The Academy's Covered Payroll	\$ 81,571	\$ 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%	14.00%	13.50%
<i>State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)</i>						
Contractually Required Contribution	\$ 80,234	\$ 87,948	\$ 95,921	\$ 70,835	\$ 41,340	\$ 32,393
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	<u>(80,234)</u>	<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>					
The Academy's Covered Payroll	\$ 573,100	\$ 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%	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 Five Fiscal Years (1)

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
<i>School Employees Retirement System (SERS)</i>					
The Academy's Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability	0.00282070%	0.0040910%	0.00311600%	0.00171600%	0.00116200%
The Academy's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	\$ 46,469	\$ 57,438	\$ 58,980	\$ 37,303	\$ 29,227
The Academy's Covered Payroll	\$ 105,464	\$ 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	44.06%	37.79%	56.82%	57.97%	75.39%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total OPEB Liability	30.02%	30.34%	24.08%	18.17%	15.57%
<i>State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)</i>					
Academy's Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability/(Asset)	0.00465099%	0.00527018%	0.00410000%	0.00244700%	0.00197100%
Academy's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability/(Asset)	\$ (90,455)	\$ (136,463)	\$ (86,445)	\$ (43,006)	\$ (32,644)
Academy's Covered Payroll	\$ 628,200	\$ 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	-14.40%	-19.92%	-17.09%	-14.56%	-14.11%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total OPEB Liability	168.52%	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.

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

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
<i>School Employees Retirement System (SERS)</i>						
Contractually Required Contribution (1)	\$ 1,427	\$ 1,997	\$ 2,843	\$ 2,073	\$ 212	\$ 922
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	<u>(1,427)</u>	<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>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
The Academy's Covered Payroll	\$ 81,571	\$ 105,464	\$ 151,986	\$ 103,807	\$ 64,350	\$ 38,770
OPEB Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll (1)	1.75%	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>	<u>-</u>
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
The Academy's Covered Payroll	\$ 573,100	\$ 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%	0.00%

(1) Includes surcharge

(2) Information prior to 2019 not available.

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

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

NOTE 1 - NET PENSION LIABILITY

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

Changes in Assumptions - SERS

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

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

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

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

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

Changes in Benefit Terms - SERS

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

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

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

SMART Academy
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
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Changes in Assumptions – STRS

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

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

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

Beginning with fiscal year 2018, post-retirement mortality rates for healthy retirees were based on the RP2014 Annuitant Mortality Table with 50 percent of rates through age 69, 70 percent of rates between ages 70 and 79, 90 percent of rates between ages 80 and 84, and 100 percent of rates thereafter, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016. Post-retirement disabled mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Disabled Mortality Table with 90 percent of rates for males and 100 percent of rates for females, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016. Pre-retirement mortality rates are based on RP-2014 Employee Mortality Table, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016.

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

Changes in Benefit Terms - STRS

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

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

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

SMART Academy
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
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NOTE 2 - NET OPEB LIABILITY (ASSET)

Changes in Assumptions – SERS

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

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

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

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

Changes in Assumptions – STRS

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

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

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

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

SMART Academy
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Changes in Benefit Terms – STRS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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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, Ohio (the Academy) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Academy's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated May 20, 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.

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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

May 20, 2025

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 6/10/2025

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

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