



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE  
**KEITH FABER**





**VALLEY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SCIOTO COUNTY  
JUNE 30, 2025**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
Independent Auditor's Report .....	1
Basic Financial Statements:	
Government-wide Financial Statements:	
Statement of Net Position – Cash Basis .....	5
Statement of Activities – Cash Basis .....	6
Fund Financial Statements:	
Statement of Assets and Fund Balances – Cash Basis Governmental Funds .....	7
Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balances – Cash Basis Governmental Funds .....	8
Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balance - Budget and Actual (Budgetary Basis) General Fund .....	9
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements .....	10
Required Supplementary Information:	
Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards .....	37
Notes to the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards .....	38
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by <i>Government Auditing Standards</i> .....	39
Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance with Requirements Applicable to Each Major Federal Program and on Internal Control Over Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance .....	41
Schedule of Findings .....	45
Prepared by Management:	
Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings .....	47
Corrective Action Plan .....	49

**This page intentionally left blank.**

# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER

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

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Valley Local School District  
Scioto County  
1821 State Route 728  
Lucasville, Ohio 45648

To the Board of Education:

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

#### ***Opinions***

We have audited the cash-basis financial statements of the governmental activities, the major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Valley Local School District, Scioto County, Ohio (the School District), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the School District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective cash-basis financial position of the governmental activities, the major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the School District as of June 30, 2025, and the changes in cash-basis financial position and the budgetary comparison for the General Fund for the year then ended in accordance with the cash-basis of accounting described in Note 2.

#### ***Basis for Opinions***

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

#### ***Emphasis of Matter - Accounting Basis***

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

### ***Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the cash-basis of accounting described in Note 2, and for determining that the cash-basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for preparation of the financial statements in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the School District's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

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

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

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

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

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

### ***Supplementary Information***

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the School District's basic financial statements.


The Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards as required by Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements.

Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, this schedule is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

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

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated February 9, 2026, on our consideration of the School District's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the School District's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the School District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

KEITH FABER  
Ohio Auditor of State



Tiffany L. Ridenbaugh, CPA, CFE, CGFM  
Chief Deputy Auditor

February 9, 2026

**This page intentionally left blank.**



**Valley Local School District**  
*Statement of Net Position - Cash Basis*  
*As of June 30, 2025*

---

	Governmental Activities
<b>Assets</b>	
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$19,428,044
Cash and Cash Equivalents with Fiscal Agents	339
	<hr/>
<i>Total Assets</i>	19,428,383
 <b>Net Position</b>	
Restricted for Other Purposes	306,231
Restricted for Unclaimed Monies	8,002
Unrestricted	19,114,150
	<hr/>
<i>Total Net Position</i>	<u><u>\$19,428,383</u></u>

The notes to the basic financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**Valley Local School District**  
*Statement of Activities - Cash Basis*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025*

	Cash	Program Receipts		Net (Disbursements)
	Disbursements	Charges for	Operating Grants, Contributions, and Interest	Receipts and Changes in Net Position
		Services and Sales		
<b>Governmental Activities</b>				
Instruction:				
Regular	\$5,927,257	\$145,558	\$132,248	(\$5,649,451)
Special	3,253,968	85,785	1,652,318	(1,515,865)
Vocational	313	6	7,114	6,807
Other	142,678	2,747	0	(139,931)
Support Services:				
Pupils	956,542	14,375	335,718	(606,449)
Instructional Staff	512,142	9,622	17,949	(484,571)
Board of Education	42,883	826	0	(42,057)
Administration	1,088,876	31,913	55,566	(1,001,397)
Fiscal	282,747	5,445	0	(277,302)
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	2,028,988	36,866	47,087	(1,945,035)
Pupil Transportation	906,608	17,393	4,830	(884,385)
Central	395,535	8,507	7,064	(379,964)
Operation of Noninstructional Services	786,758	230,091	413,081	(143,586)
Extracurricular Activities	440,551	163,766	45,024	(231,761)
Debt Service:				
Principal	247,000	0	0	(247,000)
Interest	25,582	0	0	(25,582)
<i>Total Governmental Activities</i>	<u>\$17,038,428</u>	<u>\$752,900</u>	<u>\$2,717,999</u>	<u>(13,567,529)</u>
<b>General Cash Receipts</b>				
Property Taxes Levied for:				
General Purposes				2,145,554
Grants and Entitlements,				
Not Restricted for Specific Programs				10,172,244
Investment Earnings				809,585
Miscellaneous				218,032
<i>Total General Cash Receipts</i>				<u>13,345,415</u>
<i>Change in Net Position</i>				(222,114)
<i>Net Position Beginning of Year</i>				<u>19,650,497</u>
<i>Net Position End of Year</i>				<u><u>\$19,428,383</u></u>

The notes to the basic financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**Valley Local School District**  
*Statement of Assets and Fund Balances - Cash Basis*  
*Governmental Funds*  
*As of June 30, 2025*

	<u>General</u>	<u>Nonmajor Governmental Funds</u>	<u>Total Governmental Funds</u>
<b>Assets</b>			
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$16,215,240	\$3,204,802	\$19,420,042
Cash and Cash Equivalents with Fiscal Agents	0	339	339
Restricted Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>8,002</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8,002</u>
<i>Total Assets</i>	<u><u>\$16,223,242</u></u>	<u><u>\$3,205,141</u></u>	<u><u>\$19,428,383</u></u>
<b>Fund Balances</b>			
Nonspendable	\$8,002	\$0	\$8,002
Restricted	0	306,231	306,231
Committed	282,101	2,951,327	3,233,428
Assigned	596,121	0	596,121
Unassigned (Deficit)	<u>15,337,018</u>	<u>(52,417)</u>	<u>15,284,601</u>
<i>Total Fund Balances</i>	<u><u>\$16,223,242</u></u>	<u><u>\$3,205,141</u></u>	<u><u>\$19,428,383</u></u>

The notes to the basic financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**Valley Local School District**  
*Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balances - Cash Basis*  
*Governmental Funds*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025*

	General	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<b>Cash Receipts</b>			
Property Taxes	\$2,145,554	\$0	\$2,145,554
Intergovernmental	11,506,001	1,306,632	12,812,633
Interest	809,585	0	809,585
Tuition and Fees	262,284	0	262,284
Rent	50	0	50
Extracurricular Activities	19,240	153,129	172,369
Gifts and Donations	20,140	57,470	77,610
Customer Sales and Services	89,400	228,797	318,197
Miscellaneous	209,155	8,877	218,032
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	15,061,409	1,754,905	16,816,314
<b>Cash Disbursements</b>			
Current:			
Instruction:			
Regular	5,841,609	85,648	5,927,257
Special	2,599,077	654,891	3,253,968
Vocational	313	0	313
Other	142,678	0	142,678
Support Services:			
Pupils	746,489	210,053	956,542
Instructional Staff	499,655	12,487	512,142
Board of Education	42,883	0	42,883
Administration	1,059,008	29,868	1,088,876
Fiscal	282,747	0	282,747
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	1,916,035	112,953	2,028,988
Pupil Transportation	903,248	3,360	906,608
Central	390,135	5,400	395,535
Operation of Noninstructional Services	67,175	719,583	786,758
Extracurricular Activities	248,585	191,966	440,551
Debt Service:			
Principal	0	247,000	247,000
Interest	7,178	18,404	25,582
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	14,746,815	2,291,613	17,038,428
<i>Excess of Cash Receipts Over (Under) Cash Disbursements</i>	314,594	(536,708)	(222,114)
<b>Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>			
Transfers In	0	3,006,982	3,006,982
Transfers Out	(3,006,982)	0	(3,006,982)
<i>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</i>	(3,006,982)	3,006,982	0
<i>Net Change in Fund Balances</i>	(2,692,388)	2,470,274	(222,114)
<i>Fund Balance Beginning of Year</i>	18,915,630	734,867	19,650,497
<i>Fund Balance End of Year</i>	\$16,223,242	\$3,205,141	\$19,428,383

The notes to the basic financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**Valley Local School District**  
*Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Change  
in Fund Balance - Budget and Actual - Budget Basis  
General Fund  
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025*

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance with Final Budget: Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final	Actual	
Total Receipts and Other Financing Sources	\$14,811,107	\$14,811,107	\$14,944,941	\$133,834
Total Disbursements and Other Financing Uses	14,148,251	14,148,251	18,332,770	(4,184,519)
<i>Net Change in Fund Balance</i>	662,856	662,856	(3,387,829)	(4,050,685)
<i>Fund Balance Beginning of Year</i>	18,334,831	18,334,831	18,334,831	0
<i>Prior Year Encumbrances Appropriated</i>	389,224	389,224	389,224	0
<i>Fund Balance End of Year</i>	<u>\$19,386,911</u>	<u>\$19,386,911</u>	<u>\$15,336,226</u>	<u>(\$4,050,685)</u>

The notes to the basic financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**Valley Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025*

---

**Note 1 - Description of the School District and Reporting Entity**

**Description of the Entity**

Valley Local School District (the "School District") is organized under Article VI, Sections 2 and 3 of the Constitution of the State of Ohio. The School District operates under a locally elected Board form of government consisting of five members elected at-large for staggered four-year terms. The School District provides educational services as authorized by State statute and federal guidelines.

The School District was established in 1888 through the consolidation of existing land areas and school districts. The School District serves an area of approximately 48 square miles. It is located in Scioto County, and includes all of Valley Township and portions of Jefferson, Rush, Madison, and Morgan Townships. It is staffed by 62 non-certificated employees and 81 certificated full-time teaching personnel who provide services to 980 students and other community members. The School District currently operates three instructional buildings, one transportation building, and one maintenance building.

**Primary Government**

A reporting entity is comprised of the primary government, component units, and other organizations that are included to ensure that the financial statements are not misleading. The primary government of the School District consists of all funds, departments, boards, and agencies that are not legally separate from the School District. For the School District, this includes general operations, food service, and student related activities of the School District.

**Component Units**

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

**Jointly Governed Organizations and Insurance Purchasing Pools**

The School District participates in four organizations, one of which is defined as jointly governed organization, one as a public entity shared risk pool, and two as insurance purchasing pools. These organizations are Metropolitan Educational Technology Association (META), the Optimal Health Initiatives Consortium, the Ohio School Plan, and the Ohio SchoolComp Workers' Compensation Group Rating Plan. These organizations are presented in Notes 10, 11 and 12 to the basic financial statements.

**Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

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

**Valley Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025*

---

Basis of Presentation

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

*Government-wide Financial Statements*

The statement of net position and the statement of activities display information about the School District as a whole. These statements include the financial activities of the primary government.

The statement of net position presents the cash balance of the governmental activities of the School District at fiscal year-end. The statement of activities compares disbursements with program receipts for each function or program of the School District's governmental activities. Disbursements are reported by function. A function is a group of related activities designed to accomplish a major service or regulatory program for which the government is responsible. Program receipts include charges paid by the recipient of the program's goods or services, grants and contributions restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program, and receipts of interest earned on grants that are required to be used to support a particular program. General receipts are all receipts not classified as program receipts, with certain limited exceptions. The comparison of direct disbursements with program receipts identifies the extent to which each governmental function is self-financing on a cash basis or draws from the School District's general receipts.

*Fund Financial Statements*

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

Fund Accounting

The School District uses funds to maintain its financial records during the fiscal year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. All funds of the School District fall within the governmental fund category.

*Governmental Funds*

The School District classifies funds financed primarily from taxes, intergovernmental receipts (e.g. grants), and other nonexchange transactions as governmental funds. The following is the School District's major fund:

*General Fund* – The general fund accounts for and reports all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund. The general fund balance is available to the School District for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to the general laws of Ohio.

The other governmental funds of the School District account for grants and other resources, debt service, and capital projects, whose use is restricted to a particular purpose.

Basis of Accounting

The District's financial statements are prepared using the cash basis of accounting. Receipts are recorded in the District's financial records and reported in the financial statements when cash is received rather than when earned and

**Valley Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025*

---

disbursements are recorded when cash is paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Any such modifications made by the District are described in the appropriate section in this note.

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

**Budgetary Process**

All funds are legally required to be budgeted and appropriated. The major documents prepared are the tax budget, the appropriation resolution and the certificate of estimated resources, which are prepared on the budgetary basis of accounting. The tax budget demonstrates a need for existing or increased tax rates. The certificate of estimated resources establishes a limit on the amounts that the Board of Education may appropriate.

The appropriations resolution is the Board's authorization to spend resources and sets annual limits on cash disbursements plus encumbrances at the level of control selected by the Board. The legal level of control has been established by the Board at the fund level for all funds. Budgetary allocations at the function and object level within all funds are made by the Treasurer.

The certificate of estimated resources may be amended during the year if projected increases or decreases in revenue are identified by the School District Treasurer. The amounts reported as the original budgeted amounts in the budgetary statements reflect the amounts in the certificate when the original appropriations were adopted. The amounts reported in the final column of the budgetary statements reflect the amounts in the amended certificate in effect at the time the final appropriations were passed by the Board.

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

**Cash and Cash Equivalents and Investments**

To improve cash management, all cash received by the School District is pooled. Monies for all funds are maintained in this pool. Individual fund integrity is maintained through the School District's records. Interest in the pool is presented as "Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents" on the financial statements.

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

Investments are reported as assets. Accordingly, purchases of investments are not recorded as disbursements, and sales of investments are not recorded as receipts. Gains or losses at the time of sale are recorded as receipts or negative receipts (contra revenue), respectively.

During fiscal year 2025, the School District's investments were limited to the State Treasury Asset Reserve of Ohio (STAROhio), negotiable certificates of deposit and money market funds.

STAR Ohio (the State Treasury Asset Reserve of Ohio), is an investment pool managed by the State Treasurer's Office which allows governments within the State to pool their funds for investment purposes. STAR Ohio is not registered with the SEC as an investment company, but has adopted Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), Statement No. 79, "Certain External Investment Pools and Pool Participants." The School District measures their



**Valley Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025*

---

investment in STAR Ohio at the net asset value (NAV) per share provided by STAR Ohio. The NAV per share is calculated on an amortized cost basis that provides a NAV per share that approximates fair value.

STAR Ohio reserves the right to limit participant transactions to \$250 million per day. Transactions in all of a participant's accounts will be combined for this purpose. Twenty-four hours advance notice to STAR Ohio is appreciated for purchases or redemptions of \$100 million or more. For fiscal year 2025, there were no limitations or restrictions on any participant withdrawals due to redemption notice periods, liquidity fees, or redemption gates.

Following Ohio statutes, the Board of Education has, by resolution, specified the funds to receive an allocation of interest earnings. Interest revenue credited to the General Fund during fiscal year 2025 amounted to \$809,585.

Investments of the cash management pool and investments with an original maturity of three months or less at the time they are purchased by the School District are presented on the financial statements as cash equivalents.

#### Restricted Assets

Assets are reported as restricted when limitations on their use change the nature or normal understanding of the availability of the asset. Such constraints are either imposed by creditors, contributors, grantors, or laws of other governments, or are imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. Unclaimed monies that are required to be held for five years before they may be utilized by the School District are reported as restricted.

#### Capital Assets

Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment are recorded as disbursements when paid. These items are not reflected as assets in the accompanying financial statements.

#### Inventory and Prepaid Items

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

#### Accumulated Leave

For fiscal year 2025, GASB Statement No. 101, "Compensated Absences", was effective. GASB 101 defines a compensated absence as leave for which employees may receive cash payments when the leave is used for time off or receive cash payments for unused leave upon termination of employment. These payments could occur during employment or upon termination of employment. Compensated absences generally do not have a set payment schedule. The School District does not offer noncash settlements.

School District employees earn sick and vacation time that can be used for time off. In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment or retirement, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave.

This GASB pronouncement had no effect on beginning net position/fund balance as unpaid leave is not reflected as a liability under the School District's cash basis of accounting.

#### Employer Contributions to Cost-Sharing Pension Plans

The School District recognizes the disbursement for employer contributions to cost-sharing pension plans when they are paid. As described in notes 8 and 9, the employer contributions include portions for pension benefits and for other postemployment benefits (OPEB).

**Valley Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025*

---

Long-Term Obligations

The School District's cash basis financial statements do not report liabilities for bonds and other long-term obligations. Proceeds of debt are reported when cash is received and principal and interest payments are reported when paid. Since recording a capital asset (including the intangible right to use) when entering into a subscription-based information technology agreement (SBITA) or financed purchase transaction is not the result of a cash transaction, neither an other financing source nor a capital outlay expenditure is reported at inception. SBITA payments and financed purchase payments are reported when paid.

SBITAs

The School District has entered into noncancelable SBITA contracts (as defined by GASB 96) for several types of software including contracts related to financial systems, scheduling, grading systems and various other software. Subscription liabilities are not reflected under the School District's cash basis of accounting. Subscription disbursements are recognized when they are paid.

Fund Balance

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

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

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

*Committed* – The committed fund balance classification includes amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes imposed by a formal action (resolution) of the School District Board of Education. Those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the School District Board of Education removes or changes the specified use by taking the same type of action (resolution) it employed to previously commit those amounts. Committed fund balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed for use in satisfying those contractual requirements.

*Assigned* – Amounts in the assigned fund balance classification are intended to be used by the School District for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed. In governmental funds other than the general fund, assigned fund balance represents the remaining amount that is not restricted or committed. These amounts are assigned by the School District's Board of Education. In the general fund, assigned amounts represent intended uses established by policies of the School District Board of Education or a School District official delegated by that authority by resolution or by State Statute. State statute authorizes the School District's Treasurer to assign fund balance for purchases on order provided such amounts have been lawfully appropriated.

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

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

**Valley Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025*

---

be used.

Net Position

Net position represents the cash assets held by the School District at year end. Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through enabling legislation adopted by the School District or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors or laws or regulations of other governments. Net position restricted for other purposes include resources restricted for food service operations and music and athletic programs, and federal and State grants restricted to disbursements for specified purposes. The School District applies restricted resources when a disbursement is made for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position is available.

As of June 30, 2025, none of the School District's restricted net position was restricted by enabling legislation.

Interfund Transactions

Exchange transactions between funds are reported as cash receipts in the seller funds and as cash disbursements in the purchaser funds. Flows of cash or goods from one fund to another without a requirement for repayment are reported as interfund transfers. Interfund transfers are reported as other financing sources/uses in governmental funds. Repayments from funds responsible for particular cash disbursements to the funds that initially paid for them are not presented on the basic financial statements. In the government-wide financial statements transfers within governmental activities are eliminated. Flows of cash from one fund to another with a requirement for repayment are reported as advances in and out. Advances between governmental activities are eliminated in the statement of activities.

Pensions/Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)

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

**Note 3 – Budgetary Basis Fund Balances**

The budgetary basis as provided by law is based upon accounting for certain transactions on a basis of cash receipts, disbursements, and encumbrances. The statement of receipts, disbursements and changes in fund balance - budget (budgetary basis) and actual for the General Fund is presented on the budgetary basis to provide a meaningful comparison of actual results with the budget.

The following table summarizes the adjustments necessary to reconcile the cash basis and the budgetary basis statements for the General Fund.

Net Change in Fund Balance	
	General Fund
Cash Basis (as reported)	(\$2,692,388)
Perspective Difference:	
Activity of Funds Reclassified for Cash Reporting Purposes	(294,492)
Encumbrances	(400,949)
Budget Basis	<u>(\$3,387,829)</u>

**Valley Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025*

---

**Note 4 – Deposits and Investments**

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

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

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

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

Interim monies held by the School District can be deposited or invested in the following securities:

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

Investments in stripped principal or interest obligations, reverse repurchase agreements and derivatives are prohibited. The issuance of taxable notes for the purpose of arbitrage, the use of leverage and short selling are also prohibited. An investment must mature within five years from the date of purchase unless matched to a specific obligation or debt of the School District, and must be purchased with the expectation that it will be held to maturity.

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

**Deposits**

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of bank failure, the School District will not be able to recover deposits or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. At year end, the School District's bank balance of \$6,305,412 was either covered by FDIC or collateralized by the financial institution's public entity deposit pool in the manner described below.

**Valley Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025*

---

The School District does not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk beyond the requirements of State statute. Ohio law requires that deposits either be insured or be protected by:

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

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

At June 30, 2025, the financial institution participated in the Ohio Pooled Collateral System.

Investments

At June 30, 2025, the School District had the following investments:

Investment Type	Measurement Value	Less Than One Year	1-3 Years	% of Total
Negotiable Certificates of Deposit	\$6,030,000	\$5,785,000	\$245,000	45.3%
Federated Hermes Government Obligations Sweep Money Market Fund	466,863	466,863	0	3.5%
First American Government Obligation Sweep Money Market Fund	465,251	465,251	0	3.5%
STAR Ohio	6,356,966	6,356,966	0	47.7%
Total	\$13,319,080	\$13,074,080	\$245,000	100.0%

The School District categorizes its fair value measurements within the fair value hierarchy established by generally accepted accounting principles. The hierarchy is based on the valuation inputs used to measure the fair value of the asset. Level 1 inputs are quoted prices in active markets for identical assets. Level 2 inputs are significant other observable inputs. Level 3 inputs are significant unobservable inputs. The above table identifies the School District's recurring fair value measurements as of June 30, 2025. As discussed further in note 2, STAR Ohio is reported at its share price. All investments of the School District are valued using quoted market prices (Level 1 inputs).

*Interest Rate Risk* - Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. In accordance with the School District's investment policy, the School District manages its exposure to declines in fair values by limiting the weighted average maturity of its investment portfolio.

*Credit Risk* - Credit risk is the risk that an issuer or other counterparty to an investment will not fulfill its obligations. The School District's policy places limitations on the types of investments the School District may invest in. The School District's policy authorizes investment in allowable securities as outlined in Ohio Revised Code Section 135. The School District's investments in individual marketable certificates of deposit are in denominations of under \$250,000 each, in separate banks, and insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. The marketable certificates of deposit are, therefore, not subject to credit risk. STAROhio was rated AAAM by Standard & Poor's. The Federated Hermes Government Obligations Sweep Money Market Fund and the First American Government Obligations Sweep Money Market Fund were rated AAAM by Standard & Poor's.

*Concentration of Credit Risk* - The School District places no limit on the amount that may be invested in any one issuer.

*Custodial Credit Risk* - Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the School District will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The School District has no investment policy dealing with investment custodial risk beyond the

**Valley Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025*

---

requirement in state statute that prohibits payment for investments prior to the delivery of the securities representing such investments to the treasurer or qualified trustee.

**Note 5 – Property Taxes**

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

Property taxes include amounts levied against all real, public utility, and tangible personal property (used in business) located in the School District. Real property tax receipts received in calendar year 2025 represent collection of calendar year 2024 taxes. Real property taxes received in calendar year 2025 were levied after April 1, 2024, the lien date. Assessed values for real property taxes are established by state law at thirty-five percent of appraised market value. Real property taxes are payable annually or semi-annually. If paid annually, payment is due December 31; if paid semi-annually, the first payment is due December 31 with the remainder payable by June 20. Under certain circumstances, state statute permits alternate payment dates to be established.

Public utility property tax receipts received in calendar year 2025 represent collection of calendar year 2024 taxes. Public utility real and tangible personal property taxes received in calendar year 2025 became a lien on December 31, 2023, were levied after April 1, 2024, and are collected in 2025 with real property taxes. Public utility real property is assessed at thirty-five percent of true value. Public utility tangible personal property currently is assessed at varying percentages of true value.

The Scioto County Treasurer collects property taxes on behalf of all taxing districts within the County. The Scioto County Auditor periodically remits to the taxing districts their portion of the taxes collected.

The assessed values upon which fiscal year 2025 taxes were collected are:

	2024 Second- Half Collections		2025 First- Half Collections	
	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent
Agricultural/Residential and Other Real Estate	\$93,505,890	82.68%	\$94,047,350	81.37%
Public Utility	19,593,040	17.32%	21,532,530	18.63%
Total Assessed Value	<u>\$113,098,930</u>	<u>100.00%</u>	<u>\$115,579,880</u>	<u>100.00%</u>
Tax Rate per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation	\$25.21		\$25.21	

**Note 6 – Risk Management**

The School District is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. During fiscal year 2025, the School District joined together with other school districts and educational service centers in Ohio to participate in the Ohio School Plan (OSP), a public entity insurance purchasing pool. Each individual school district or educational service center enters into an agreement with the OSP and its premium is based on types of coverage, limits of coverage, and deductibles that it selects. The School District pays this annual premium to the OSP (See Note 12).

Insurance coverage provided includes the following:

**Valley Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025*

---

Property - including inland marine, miscellaneous equipment, and automobile physical damage catastrophic coverage	\$63,050,600
Automobile liability	2,000,000
Uninsured Motorists	1,000,000
General Liability:	
Per occurrence	2,000,000
Annual Aggregate	4,000,000

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

The School District participates in the Optimal Health Initiatives Consortium (the “Consortium”), a public entity shared risk pool (Note 11), consisting of school districts whose self-insurance programs for health care benefits were administered previously under the Scioto Schools Council of Governments, the Northern Buckeye Education Council, and the Butler Health Plan. Premiums are paid to the fiscal agent who in turn pays the claims on the School District’s behalf.

For fiscal year 2025, the School District participated in the Ohio SchoolComp Workers’ Compensation Group Rating Plan (GRP), an insurance purchasing pool (Note 12). The intent of the GRP is to achieve the benefit of a reduced premium for the School District by virtue of its grouping and representation with other participants in the GRP. The workers’ compensation experience of the participating school districts is calculated as one experience and a common premium rate is applied to all school districts in the GRP. Each participant pays its workers’ compensation premium to the State based on the rate for the GRP rather than its individual rate. Total savings are then calculated and each participant’s individual performance is compared to the overall savings percentage of the GRP. A participant will then either receive money from or be required to contribute to the “Equity Pooling Fund.” This “equity pooling” arrangement ensures that each participant shares equally in the overall performance of the GRP. Participation in the GRP is limited to school districts that can meet the GRP’s selection criteria. Sedgwick provides administrative, cost control and actuarial services to the GRP. Each year, the School District pays an enrollment fee to the GRP to cover the costs of administering the program.

#### **Note 7 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans**

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

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

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

GASB 68/75 assumes the liability is solely the obligation of the employer, because (1) they benefit from employee services; and (2) State statute requires funding to come from these employers. All pension contributions to date have come solely from these employers (which also includes pension costs paid in the form of withholdings from

**Valley Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025*

---

employees). The retirement systems may allocate a portion of the employer contributions to provide for these OPEB benefits. In addition, health care plan enrollees pay a portion of the health care costs in the form of a monthly premium. State statute requires the retirement systems to amortize unfunded pension liabilities within 30 years. If the pension amortization period exceeds 30 years, each retirement system's board must propose corrective action to the State legislature. Any resulting legislative change to benefits or funding could significantly affect the net pension/OPEB liability (asset). Resulting adjustments to the net pension/OPEB liability (asset) would be effective when the changes are legally enforceable. The Ohio Revised Code permits, but does not require, the retirement systems to provide healthcare to eligible benefit recipients.

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

The remainder of this note includes the required pension disclosures. See Note 8 for the required OPEB disclosures.

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

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

Age and service requirements for retirement are as follows:

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

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

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

An individual whose benefit effective date is before April 1, 2018, is eligible for a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) on the first anniversary date of the benefit. New benefit recipients must wait until the fourth anniversary of their benefit for COLA eligibility. The COLA is added each year to the base benefit amount on the anniversary date of the benefit. The COLA is indexed to the percentage increase in the CPI-W, not to exceed 2.5 percent and with a floor of 0 percent. A three-year COLA suspension was in effect for all benefit recipients for the years 2018, 2019, and 2020. The Retirement Board approved a 2.5 percent COLA for calendar year 2024.

Funding Policy – Plan members are required to contribute 10 percent of their annual covered salary and School District 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, 2025, the allocation to pension, death benefits, and Medicare B was 14.0 percent. For fiscal year 2025, the Retirement Board did not allocate any employer contribution to the Health Care Fund.



**Valley Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025*

---

The School District's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$219,405 for fiscal year 2025.

Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

Plan Description – School District 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 website at [www.strsoh.org](http://www.strsoh.org).

New members have a choice of three retirement plans; a Defined Benefit (DB) Plan, a Defined Contribution (DC) Plan, and a Combined 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. The calculation is 2.2 percent of final average salary for the five highest years of earnings multiplied by all years of credited service. Effective August 1, 2023, any member can retire with unreduced benefits with 34 years of services credit at any age; or five years of service credit and age 65. Effective June 1, 2025 - July 1, 2027, any member can retire with unreduced benefits with 33 years of service credit at any age; or five years of service credit and age 65. Effective on or after August 1, 2027, any member can retire with unreduced benefits with 34 years of service credit at any age; or five years of service credit and age 65.

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, an 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 permanent 1 percent COLA 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.

Eligibility changes for DB Plan members who retire with actuarially reduced benefits effective August 1, 2023, can retire with 29 years of service credit at any age; or five years of service credit and age 60. Effective June 1, 2025 - July 1, 2027, retirement eligibility for reduced benefits is 28 years of service credit at any age; or five years of service credit and age 60. Effective on or after August 1, 2027, retirement eligibility for reduced benefits is 29 years of service credit at any age; or five years of service credit and age 60.

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

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

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.

**Valley Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025*

---

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 2025 employer and employee contribution rate of 14 percent was equal to the statutory maximum rates. For 2025, the full employer contribution was allocated to pension.

The School District's contractually required contribution to STRS was \$819,270 for fiscal year 2025.

**Net Pension Liability**

The net pension liability (asset) was measured as of June 30, 2024, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The School District's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the School District's share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the contributions of all participating entities. Following is information related to the proportionate share and pension expense:

	SERS	STRS	Total
Proportion of the Net Pension Liability:			
Current Measurement Date	0.05105290%	0.04182642%	
Prior Measurement Date	0.05275150%	0.04101688%	
Change in Proportionate Share	<u>-0.00169860%</u>	<u>0.00080954%</u>	
Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$2,611,660	\$8,048,079	\$10,659,739

**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, 2024, are presented below:

**Valley Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025

---

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

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

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

The long-term return expectation for the Pension Plan Investments has been determined by using a building-block approach and assumes a time horizon, as defined in SERS' *Statement of Investment Policy*. ORC 3309.15 and the SERS Board-adopted Investment Policy govern investment activity. A forecasted rate of inflation serves as the baseline for the return expectation. Various real return premiums over the baseline inflation rate have been established for each asset class. The long-term expected nominal rate of return has been determined by calculating a weighted average of the expected real return premiums for each asset class, adding the projected inflation rate, and adding the expected return from rebalancing uncorrelated asset classes. As of June 30, 2024:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return (geometric)</u>
Cash	3.00 %	0.97 %
US Equity	22.00	4.68
Non-US Equity Developed	12.00	4.96
Non-US Equity Emerging	6.00	5.66
Fixed Income/Global Bonds	18.00	2.38
Private Equity	14.00	7.10
Real Estate	13.00	3.64
Infrastructure	7.00	4.80
Private Debt/Private Credit	5.00	5.86
Total	<u>100.00 %</u>	

*Discount Rate* The total pension liability for 2024 was calculated using the discount rate of 7.00 percent. The discount rate determination did not use a municipal bond rate. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that employers would contribute the actuarially determined contribution rate of projected compensation over the remaining 20-year amortization period of the unfunded actuarial accrued liability. The actuarially determined contribution rate for fiscal year 2024 was 14 percent. Projected inflows from investment earnings were calculated using the long-term assumed investment rate of return (7.00 percent). Based on those assumptions, the plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefits to determine the total pension liability. The annual money-weighted rate of return, calculated as the internal rate of return on pension plan investments, for fiscal year 2024 was 9.31 percent.

**Valley Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025

---

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

	1% Decrease (6.00%)	Current Discount Rate (7.00%)	1% Increase (8.00%)
School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$3,995,479	\$2,611,660	\$1,446,560

Actuarial Assumptions – STRS

Key methods and assumptions used in the June 30, 2024, actuarial valuation are presented below:

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

Post-retirement mortality rates 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, 2024, valuation are based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2021. An actuarial experience study is done on a quinquennial basis.

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

**Valley Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025

---

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation *</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Rate of Return **</u>
Domestic Equity	26.00%	6.90%
International Equity	22.00	7.70
Alternatives	19.00	9.10
Fixed Income	22.00	4.50
Real Estate	10.00	5.10
Liquidity Reserves	1.00	2.40
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 2.4 percent, and is net of investment expenses. Over a 30-year period, STRS' investment consultant indicates that the above target allocation 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, 2024. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumes that member and employer contributions will be made at the statutory contribution rates in accordance with rate increases described above. For this purpose, only employer contributions that are intended to fund benefits of current plan members and their beneficiaries are included. Based on those assumptions, STRS' fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current plan members as of June 30, 2024. 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, 2024.

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

	<u>1% Decrease (6.00%)</u>	<u>Current Discount Rate (7.00%)</u>	<u>1% Increase (8.00%)</u>
School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$12,982,962	\$8,048,079	\$3,874,016

#### **Note 8 – Defined Benefit OPEB Plans**

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

See Note 7 for a description of the net OPEB liability (asset).

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

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

**Valley Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025*

---

in SERS' health care coverage. The following types of credit purchased after January 29, 1981, do not count toward health care coverage eligibility: military, federal, out-of-state, municipal, private school, exempted, and early retirement incentive credit. In addition to age and service retirees, disability benefit recipients and beneficiaries who are receiving monthly benefits due to the death of a member or retiree, are eligible for SERS' health care coverage. Most retirees and dependents choosing SERS' health care coverage are over the age of 65 and therefore enrolled in a fully insured Medicare Advantage plan; however, SERS maintains a traditional, self-insured preferred provider organization for its non-Medicare retiree population. For both groups, SERS offers a self-insured prescription drug program. Health care is a benefit that is permitted, not mandated, by statute. The financial report of the Plan is included in the SERS Annual Comprehensive Financial Report which can be obtained on SERS' website at [www.ohsers.org](http://www.ohsers.org) under Employers/Audit Resources.

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

Access to health care for retirees and beneficiaries is permitted in accordance with Section 3309 of the Ohio Revised Code. 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 2025, 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 2025, this amount was \$30,000. Statutes provide that no employer shall pay a health care surcharge greater than 2 percent of that employer's SERS-covered payroll; nor may SERS collect in aggregate more than 1.5 percent of the total statewide SERS-covered payroll for the health care surcharge. For fiscal year 2025, the School District's surcharge obligation was \$39,377.

The surcharge, added to the allocated portion of the 14 percent employer contribution rate is the total amount assigned to the Health Care Fund. The School District's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$39,377 for fiscal year 2025.

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

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

Medicare Part D is a federal program to help cover the costs of prescription drugs for Medicare beneficiaries. This program allows STRS Ohio to recover part of the cost for providing prescription coverage since all eligible STRS Ohio health care plans include creditable prescription drug coverage.

Funding Policy – Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3307 authorizes STRS to offer the Plan and gives the Retirement Board discretionary authority over how much, if any, of the health care costs will be absorbed by STRS. Active employee members do not contribute to the Health Care Plan. All benefit recipients pay a portion of the health care costs in the form of a monthly premium. Under Ohio law, funding for post-employment health care may be deducted from

**Valley Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025

---

employer contributions, currently 14 percent of covered payroll. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, STRS did not allocate any employer contributions to post-employment health care.

Net OPEB Liability (Asset)

The net OPEB liability (asset) was measured as of June 30, 2024, and the total OPEB liability used to calculate the net OPEB liability (asset) was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The School District's proportion of the net OPEB liability (asset) was based on the School District's share of contributions to the respective retirement systems relative to the contributions of all participating entities. Following is information related to the proportionate share:

	SERS	STRS	Total
Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset):			
Current Measurement Date	0.05207630%	0.04182642%	
Prior Measurement Date	0.05418690%	0.04101688%	
Change in Proportionate Share	<u>-0.00211060%</u>	<u>0.00080954%</u>	
Proportionate Share of the:			
Net OPEB Liability	\$530,395	\$0	\$530,395
Net OPEB Asset	\$0	(\$793,367)	(\$793,367)

Actuarial Assumptions - SERS

The total OPEB liability is determined by SERS' actuaries in accordance with GASB Statement No. 74, as part of their annual actuarial valuation for each retirement plan. Actuarial valuations of an ongoing plan involve estimates of the value of reported amounts (e.g., salaries, credited service) and assumptions about the probability of occurrence of events far into the future (e.g., mortality, disabilities, retirements, employment terminations). Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual review and potential modifications, as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future.

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

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

Key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total OPEB liability in the latest actuarial valuation date of June 30, 2024, are presented below:

**Valley Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025*

---

	<u>June 30, 2024</u>
Inflation	2.40 percent
Future Salary Increases, including inflation	3.25 percent to 13.58 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent net of investment expense
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal (Level Percent of Payroll)
Fiduciary Net Position is Projected to be Depleted	2059
Municipal Bond Index Rate:	
Measurement Date	3.93 percent
Prior Measurement Date	3.86 percent
Single Equivalent Interest Rate,	
Measurement Date	4.88 percent
Prior Measurement Date	4.27 percent
Health Care Cost Trend Rate	
Medical Trend Assumption	
Measurement Date	7.00 to 4.40 percent
Prior Measurement Date	6.75 to 4.40 percent

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

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

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

The long-term expected nominal rate of return has been determined by calculating a weighted average of the expected real return premiums for each asset class, adding the projected inflation rate, and adding the expected return from rebalancing uncorrelated asset classes. As of June 30, 2024:



**Valley Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025

---

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return (geometric)
Cash	3.00 %	0.97 %
US Equity	22.00	4.68
Non-US Equity Developed	12.00	4.96
Non-US Equity Emerging	6.00	5.66
Fixed Income/Global Bonds	18.00	2.38
Private Equity	14.00	7.10
Real Estate	13.00	3.64
Infrastructure	7.00	4.80
Private Debt/Private Credit	5.00	5.86
Total	<u>100.00 %</u>	

*Discount Rate* The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability at June 30, 2024, was 4.88 percent. The discount rate used to measure total OPEB liability prior to June 30, 2024, was 4.27 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions will be made from members and the System at the contribution rate of 1.50 percent of projected covered payroll each year, which includes a 1.50 percent payroll surcharge and no contributions from the basic benefits plan. Based on these assumptions, the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be depleted in 2059 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, 2023, and the June 30, 2024, total OPEB liability. The Municipal Bond Index Rate is the single rate that will generate a present value of benefit payments equal to the sum of the present value determined by the long-term expected rate of return, and the present value determined by discounting those benefits after the date of depletion. The Municipal Bond Index Rate was 3.93 percent at June 30, 2024, and 3.86 percent at June 30, 2023.

*Sensitivity of the School District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate and Changes in the Health Care Cost Trend Rates* The net OPEB liability is sensitive to changes in the discount rate and the health care cost trend rate. The following table presents the net OPEB liability of SERS, what SERS' net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1 percentage point lower (3.88%) and higher (5.88%) than the current discount rate (4.88%). Also shown is what SERS' net OPEB liability would be based on health care cost trend rates that are 1 percentage point lower (6.00% decreasing to 3.40%) and higher (8.00% decreasing to 5.40%) than the current rate.

	1% Decrease (3.88%)	Current Discount Rate (4.88%)	1% Increase (5.88%)
School District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$707,262	\$530,395	\$389,849

	1% Decrease (6.00% decreasing to 3.40%)	Current Trend Rate (7.00% decreasing to 4.40%)	1% Increase (8.00% decreasing to 5.40%)
School District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$358,527	\$530,395	\$756,301

Actuarial Assumptions – STRS

Key methods and assumptions used in the June 30, 2024, actuarial valuation compared to the prior year are presented below:

**Valley Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025*

---

	June 30, 2024	June 30, 2023
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 3.94 percent ultimate	7.50 percent initial 4.14 percent ultimate
Medicare	-112.22 percent initial 3.94 percent ultimate	-10.94 percent initial 4.14 percent ultimate
Prescription Drug		
Pre-Medicare	8.00 percent initial 3.94 percent ultimate	-11.95 percent initial 4.14 percent ultimate
Medicare	-15.14 percent initial 3.94 percent ultimate	1.33 percent initial 4.14 percent ultimate

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

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

Actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2024, valuation are based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2021. An actuarial experience study is done on a quinquennial basis.

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

**Valley Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025

---

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation *</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Rate of Return **</u>
Domestic Equity	26.00%	6.90%
International Equity	22.00	7.70
Alternatives	19.00	9.10
Fixed Income	22.00	4.50
Real Estate	10.00	5.10
Liquidity Reserves	1.00	2.40
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 2.4 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 actual 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, 2024. 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, 2024. 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, 2024.

*Sensitivity of the School District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Asset to Changes in the Discount and Health Care Cost Trend Rate* The following table represents the net OPEB asset as of June 30, 2024, calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 7.00 percent, as well as what the net OPEB asset would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.00 percent) or one percentage point higher (8.00 percent) than the current assumption. Also shown is the net OPEB asset as if it were calculated using health care cost trend rates that are one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current health care cost trend rates.

	<u>1% Decrease (6.00%)</u>	<u>Current Discount Rate (7.00%)</u>	<u>1% Increase (8.00%)</u>
School District's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	(\$645,060)	(\$793,367)	(\$922,427)

	<u>1% Decrease</u>	<u>Current Trend Rate</u>	<u>1% Increase</u>
School District's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	(\$931,145)	(\$793,367)	(\$627,672)

**Valley Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025

---

**Note 9 – Long-Term Obligations**

The changes in the School District's long-term obligations during fiscal year 2025 were as follows:

	Amount Outstanding June 30, 2024	Additions	Deductions	Amount Outstanding June 30, 2025	Amount Due in One Year
2015 School Energy Conservation					
Improvement Bonds	\$307,000	\$0	(\$47,000)	\$260,000	\$49,000
Financed Purchase	1,030,000	0	(200,000)	830,000	205,000
Total Long-Term Obligations	<u>\$1,337,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$247,000)</u>	<u>\$1,090,000</u>	<u>\$254,000</u>

*Energy Conservation Bonds* - On March 25, 2015, the School District issued School Energy Conservation Improvement Bonds in the amount of \$676,000. The bonds were for the purpose of a HB264 project for energy conservation measures. The bonds bear an interest at the rate of 3.24% per annum payable on June 1 and December 1 of each year commencing December 1, 2015 and maturing December 1, 2029. Payments for these bonds are being made from the Bond Retirement Fund.

*Financed Purchase* - On September 17, 2020 the School District entered into a financed purchase agreement in the amount of \$1,800,000 for the purpose of funding the high school athletic complex project. The financed purchase agreement bears an interest rate of 1.79% per annum payable on June 1 and December 1 of each year commencing December 1, 2020 and maturing December 1, 2028. Payments for this debt are being made from the Bond Retirement Fund.

The School District's overall legal debt margin was \$10,423,767 with an unvoted debt margin of \$115,580 at June 30, 2025.

Principal and interest requirements to retire the improvement bonds and financed purchase agreement outstanding at June 30, 2025, are as follows:

Fiscal Year Ending June 30,	Energy Conservation Improvement Bonds		Financed Purchase	
	Principal	Interest	Principal	Interest
2026	\$49,000	\$7,630	\$205,000	\$13,023
2027	50,000	6,026	205,000	9,353
2028	52,000	4,374	210,000	5,638
2029	54,000	2,657	210,000	1,879
2030	55,000	891	0	0
	<u>\$260,000</u>	<u>\$21,578</u>	<u>\$830,000</u>	<u>\$29,893</u>

**Note 10 – Jointly Governed Organizations**

**Metropolitan Educational Technology Association**

META is an educational solutions partner providing services across Ohio. META provides cost-effective fiscal, network, technology and student services, a purchasing cooperative, and other individual services based on each client's needs.

The governing board of META consists of a president, vice president and six board members who represent the members of META. The board works with META's Chief Executive Officer, Chief Operating Officer, and Chief Financial Officer to manage operations and ensure the continued progress of the organization's mission, vision,

**Valley Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025*

---

and values. The Board exercises total control over the operations of the Council including budgeting, appropriating, contracting and designating management. Each member's degree of control is limited to its representation on the Board. The School District paid META \$62,949 for services provided during the fiscal year. Financial information can be obtained from Ashley Widby, who serves as Chief Financial Officer, at 100 Executive Drive, Marion, Ohio 43302.

**Note 11 – Public Entity Shared Risk Pool**

**Optimal Health Initiatives Consortium**

The School District is a member of the Optimal Health Initiatives Consortium (the "Consortium"), a public entity shared risk pool, consisting of school districts whose self-insurance programs for health care benefits were administered previously under the Scioto County Schools Council of Governments, the Northern Buckeye Education Council, and the Butler Health Plan. The overall objective of the Consortium is to enable its members to purchase employee benefits and related products and services using the Consortium's economics of scale to create cost-savings. The Consortium's business and affairs are managed by an Executive Board of Trustees, consisting of the chairperson of each division's board of trustees and the chairperson of the Butler Health Plan. The participants pay an administrative fee to the fiscal agent to cover the costs of administering the Consortium. To obtain financial information, write to the fiscal agent, Charlie Leboeus, Mountyjoy Chilton Medley, LLP, 201 East 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 2100, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202.

**Note 12 – Insurance Purchasing Pools**

**Ohio School Plan**

The School District participates in the Ohio School Plan (OSP), an insurance purchasing pool. The Ohio School Plan (OSP) is created and organized pursuant to and as authorized by Section 2744.081 of the Ohio Revised Code. The OSP is an unincorporated, non-profit association of its members and an instrumentality for each member for the purpose of enabling members of the Plan to provide for a formalized, joint insurance purchasing program to maintain adequate insurance protection, risk management programs and other administrative services. The OSP's business and affairs are conducted by a fifteen-member Board of Directors consisting of school district superintendents and treasurers, as well as the president of Harcum-Hyre Insurance Agency, Inc. and a partner of the Hylant Group, Inc. Hylant Group, Inc. is the Administrator of the OSP and is responsible for processing claims. Harcum-Hyre Insurance Agency, Inc. is the sales and marketing representative, which establishes agreements between OSP and member schools.

**Ohio SchoolComp Workers' Compensation Group Rating Plan**

The School District participates in the Ohio SchoolComp Workers' Compensation Group Rating Plan (GRP), an insurance purchasing pool. The GRP's business and affairs are conducted by a three-member Board of Directors consisting of the President, the President-Elect and the Immediate Past President of the OSBA. The Executive Director of the OSBA, or his designee, serves as coordinator of the program. Each fiscal year, the participating school districts pay an enrollment fee to the GRP to cover the costs of administering the program.

**Note 13 – Statutory Set-Asides**

The District is required by state statute to annually set aside in the general fund an amount based on a statutory formula for the acquisition and construction of capital improvements. Amounts not spent by fiscal year end or offset by similarly restricted resources received during the fiscal year must be held in cash at fiscal year-end. These amounts must be carried forward and used for the same purposes in future fiscal years. The following cash basis information describes the change in the fiscal year-end set-aside amounts for capital improvements. Disclosure of this information is required by state statute.

**Valley Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025*

---

	<u>Capital Acquisition</u>
Set-aside Balance as of June 30, 2024	\$0
Current Year Set-aside Requirement	236,739
Current Year Qualifying Disbursements	<u>(826,968)</u>
Totals	<u>(\$590,229)</u>
Balance Carried Forward to Fiscal Year 2025	<u>\$0</u>
Set-aside Balance as of June 30, 2025	<u>\$0</u>

Although the School District had qualifying offsets and disbursements during the fiscal year that reduced the set-aside amount below zero for capital improvement set-aside, this amount may not be used to reduce the set-aside requirements of future fiscal years. Negative amounts are therefore not presented as being carried forward to the next fiscal year.

**Note 14 - Contingencies**

Grants

The School District received financial assistance from federal and State agencies in the form of grants. The expenditure of funds received under these programs generally requires compliance with terms and conditions specified in the grant agreements and are subject to audit by the grantor agencies. Any disallowed claims resulting from such audits could become a liability of the General Fund or other applicable funds. However, the effect of any such disallowed claims on the overall financial position of the School District at June 30, 2025, if applicable, cannot be determined at this time.

Litigation

The School District is not currently party to legal proceedings.

School Foundation

School District foundation funding is based on the annualized full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment of each student. 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. Adjustments for fiscal year 2025 have been finalized.

**Note 15 – Accountability and Compliance**

Accountability

At June 30, 2025, the School District had the following deficit fund balances:

Early Childhood Education	\$2,415
IDEA Part B Special Education	9,678
Title I	40,324

These deficits occurred as a result of spending of grant funds prior to processing requests for reimbursement.

**Valley Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025*

---

**Compliance**

Although required by Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(B) to prepare its financial report in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP), the School District chooses to prepare its financial statements and notes in accordance with the cash basis of accounting. This is not in compliance with Ohio law.

Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.41(B) prohibits the district from making any expenditure of money unless it has been appropriated in accordance with Ohio Revised Code. The School District's General Fund had expenditures in excess of appropriations of \$4,183,727 and Permanent Improvement Fund had expenditures in excess of appropriations of \$97,309, as of June 30, 2025.

**Note 16 - Interfund Activity**

**Interfund Transfers**

Transfers made during the year ended June 30, 2025, were as follows:

Funds:	Transfers In	Transfers Out
Major Fund		
General Fund	\$0	\$3,006,982
Nonmajor Funds		
Student Activities	5,000	0
Capital Project	1,000,000	0
Permanent Improvement	1,455,000	0
Debt Service	546,982	0
Total	<u>\$3,006,982</u>	<u>\$3,006,982</u>

Transfers are made to move unrestricted balances to support programs, projects accounted for in other funds, and debt service payments. The transfers were made from the General Fund to the Debt Service nonmajor fund for the School District's debt payment. Transfers were also made to the Permanent nonmajor fund for a turf project and parking lot project. Transfers were made to the capital projects fund and the student activities fund to cover negative balances during the fiscal year.

**Note 17 – New Accounting Pronouncements**

**New Accounting Pronouncement**

For fiscal year 2025, the School District implemented GASB Statement No. 102, "Certain Risk Disclosures," but had no disclosures related to concentrations or constraints. This GASB pronouncement relates to note disclosure only and had no effect on beginning net position/fund balance.

**Note 18 – Significant Commitments**

**Encumbrances**

At June 30, 2025, the School District had significant encumbrance commitments in the governmental funds as follows:

**Valley Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025*

---

<i>Major Fund</i>	
General	\$400,949
<i>Nonmajor Funds</i>	
Permanent Improvement	262,940
Facilities Maintenance	123,445

**Note 19 - Fund Balance**

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

Fund Balances	General	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total
<b>Nonspendable</b>			
Unclaimed Monies	\$8,002	\$0	\$8,002
<b>Restricted for</b>			
Lunchroom	0	45,020	45,020
Education Foundation	0	52,151	52,151
Classroom Facilities Maintenance	0	127,466	127,466
Student Activities	0	36,596	36,596
District Managed Activities	0	35,250	35,250
Miscellaneous State Grants	0	4,370	4,370
Other Purposes	0	5,378	5,378
<i>Total Restricted</i>	0	306,231	306,231
<b>Committed to</b>			
Capital Projects	0	2,669,749	2,669,749
Debt Service	0	281,578	281,578
Severance	282,101	0	282,101
<i>Total Committed</i>	282,101	2,951,327	3,233,428
<b>Assigned to</b>			
Rotary	139,348	0	139,348
Public School Support	36,617	0	36,617
Latchkey	19,207	0	19,207
Purchases on Order	400,949	0	400,949
<i>Total Assigned</i>	596,121	0	596,121
<b>Unassigned (Deficit)</b>	15,337,018	(52,417)	15,284,601
<i>Total Fund Balances</i>	\$16,223,242	\$3,205,141	\$19,428,383



VALLEY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SCIOTO COUNTY

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

<b>FEDERAL GRANTOR Pass Through Grantor Program / Cluster Title</b>	<b>Federal AL Number</b>	<b>Pass Through Entity Identifying Number</b>	<b>Provided Through to Subrecipients</b>	<b>Total Federal Expenditures</b>
<b>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE</b>				
<b><i>Passed Through Ohio Department of Education and Workforce</i></b>				
Child Nutrition Cluster:				
Non-Cash Assistance (Food Distribution):				
National School Lunch Program	10.555	N/A	\$0	\$ 48,768
Cash Assistance:				
National School Lunch Program	10.555	N/A	0	265,687
Total National School Lunch Program			<u>0</u>	<u>314,455</u>
School Breakfast Program	10.553	N/A	0	91,425
Total Child Nutrition Cluster			<u>0</u>	<u>405,880</u>
Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program	10.582	N/A	0	18,919
Total U.S. Department of Agriculture			<u>0</u>	<u>424,799</u>
<b>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION</b>				
<b><i>Passed Through Ohio Department of Education and Workforce</i></b>				
Title I-A Improving Basic Programs	84.010A	N/A	0	302,983
Special Education Cluster:				
Special Education Grants to States	84.027A	N/A	0	255,650
Special Education - Preschool Grants	84.173	N/A	4,615	4,615
Total Special Education Cluster			4,615	260,265
Rural Education	84.358B	N/A	0	9,642
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants	84.367A	N/A	0	35,890
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program	84.424A	N/A	0	19,108
COVID-19 Education Stabilization Fund	84.425U	N/A	0	106,636
Total U.S. Department of Education			<u>4,615</u>	<u>734,524</u>
<b>Total Expenditures of Federal Awards</b>			<u><b>\$ 4,615</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 1,159,323</b></u>

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

**Valley Local School District**  
*Notes to the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards*  
*2 CFR 200.510(b)(6)*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025*

---

**Note 1 – Basis of Presentation**

The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards (the schedule) is a summary of the activity of the District's federal award programs. The information in this schedule is presented in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Because the schedule presents only a selected portion of the operations of the District, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position or changes in net position of the District.

**Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

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

**Note 3 – Indirect Cost Rate**

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

**Note 4 – Child Nutrition Cluster**

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

**Note 5 – Subrecipients**

The District passes certain federal awards received from Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) to other governments or not-for-profit agencies (subrecipients). As Note 2 describes, the District reports expenditures of federal awards to subrecipients when paid in cash.

As a pass-through entity, the District has certain compliance responsibilities, such as monitoring its subrecipients to help assure they use these subawards as authorized by laws, regulations, and the provisions of contracts or grant agreements, and that subrecipients achieve the award's performance goals.

**Note 6 – Food Donation Program**

The District reports commodities consumed on the schedule at the entitlement value. The District allocated donated food commodities to the respective program that benefitted from the use of those donated food commodities.



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

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

Valley Local School District  
Scioto County  
1821 State Route 728  
Lucasville, OH 45648

To the Board of Education:

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to the financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*), the cash-basis financial statements of the governmental activities, the major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Valley Local School District, Scioto County, Ohio (the School District) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the School District's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated February 9, 2026, wherein we noted the School District uses a special purpose framework other than generally accepted accounting principles.

***Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting***

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

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

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

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

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the School District's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which are described in the accompanying schedule of findings as items 2025-001 and 2025-002.

### ***School District's Response to Findings***

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

### ***Purpose of This Report***

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

KEITH FABER  
Ohio Auditor of State



Tiffany L. Ridenbaugh, CPA, CFE, CGFM  
Chief Deputy Auditor

February 9, 2026



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

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

Valley Local School District  
Scioto County  
1821 State Route 728  
Lucasville, OH 45648

To the Board of Education:

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

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

We have audited Valley Local School District's, Scioto County, Ohio (the School District) compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) *Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of Valley Local School District's major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2025. Valley Local School District's major federal programs are identified in the *Summary of Auditor's Results* section of the accompanying schedule of findings.

In our opinion, Valley Local School District complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2025.

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

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

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

### ***Responsibilities of Management for Compliance***

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

### ***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance***

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

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

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

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

### **Report on Internal Control Over Compliance**

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

Valley Local School District  
Scioto County  
Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance with Requirements  
Applicable to Each Major Federal Program and on Internal Control Over Compliance  
Required by the Uniform Guidance  
Page 3

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

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

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

KEITH FABER  
Ohio Auditor of State



Tiffany L. Ridenbaugh, CPA, CFE, CGFM  
Chief Deputy Auditor

February 9, 2026

**This page intentionally left blank.**



**VALLEY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SCIOTO COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS  
2 CFR § 200.515  
JUNE 30, 2025**

**1. SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS**

<b>(d)(1)(i)</b>	<b>Type of Financial Statement Opinion</b>	Unmodified
<b>(d)(1)(ii)</b>	<b>Were there any material weaknesses in internal control reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?</b>	No
<b>(d)(1)(ii)</b>	<b>Were there any significant deficiencies in internal control reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?</b>	No
<b>(d)(1)(iii)</b>	<b>Was there any reported material noncompliance at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?</b>	Yes
<b>(d)(1)(iv)</b>	<b>Were there any material weaknesses in internal control reported for major federal programs?</b>	No
<b>(d)(1)(iv)</b>	<b>Were there any significant deficiencies in internal control reported for major federal programs?</b>	No
<b>(d)(1)(v)</b>	<b>Type of Major Programs' Compliance Opinion</b>	Unmodified
<b>(d)(1)(vi)</b>	<b>Are there any reportable findings under 2 CFR § 200.516(a)?</b>	No
<b>(d)(1)(vii)</b>	<b>Major Programs (list):</b>	Child Nutrition Cluster – Federal AL #'s 10.553 & 10.555 Special Education Cluster – Federal AL #'s 84.027 & 84.173
<b>(d)(1)(viii)</b>	<b>Dollar Threshold: Type A/B Programs</b>	Type A: > \$ 750,000 Type B: all others
<b>(d)(1)(ix)</b>	<b>Low Risk Auditee under 2 CFR § 200.520?</b>	No

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

**FINDING NUMBER 2025-001**

**Noncompliance**

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

**Ohio Admin. Code 117-2-03(B)** requires the School District to file annual financial reports which are prepared using generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).

**FINDING NUMBER 2025-001**  
**(Continued)**

The School District prepared financial statements that, although formatted similar to financial statements prescribed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, report on the cash basis of accounting rather than GAAP.

The accompanying financial statements and notes omit certain assets, liabilities, deferred inflows/outflows of resources, fund equities/net position, and disclosures that, while presumed material, cannot be determined at this time.

Pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code Section 117.38 the School District may be fined for its failure to file the required financial report. Failure to report on a GAAP basis compromises the School District's ability to evaluate and monitor the overall financial condition of the School District.

To help provide the users with more meaningful financial statements, the School District should prepare its annual financial statements according to generally accepted accounting principles.

**Officials' Response:**

Refer to the Corrective Action Plan

**FINDING NUMBER 2025-002**

**Noncompliance**

**Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.41(B)** prohibits a subdivision or taxing authority unit from making any expenditure of money unless it has been appropriated in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code.

Due to inadequate policies and procedures in approving and reviewing budget versus actual information, the School District's General Fund had expenditures in excess of appropriations of \$4,184,519 and Permanent Improvement Fund had expenditures in excess of appropriations of \$97,309, as of June 30, 2025.

Failure to have adequate appropriations in place at the time expenditures are made could cause expenditures to exceed available resources, further resulting in deficit spending practices.

The Board of Education should closely monitor expenditures and appropriations and make the necessary appropriation amendments, if possible, to reduce the likelihood of expenditures exceeding appropriations. Additionally, the Treasurer should deny payment requests exceeding appropriations when appropriations are inadequate to cover the expenditures.

**Officials' Response:**

Refer to the Corrective Action Plan

<b>3. FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS</b>
--

None.



## LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Aaron Franke  
Superintendent

Kristi Hall  
Treasurer

Board of Education  
Terri Gregory  
Susan Sammons  
Troy A. Gahm  
David Flowers  
Philip Shephard

### SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS

2 CFR § 200.511(b)  
JUNE 30, 2025

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Status	Additional Information
2024-001	Ohio Revised Code 117.38 – Failure to File GAAP	Not Corrected	Reissued as Finding Number 2025-001

*" Education is our Chief Concern "*

1821 St. Rt. 728 • Lucasville, OH 45648

Phone (740) 259-3115 • Fax (740) 259-2314

**This page intentionally left blank.**

# Valley

## LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Aaron Franke  
Superintendent

Kristi Hall  
Treasurer

Board of Education  
Terri Gregory  
Susan Sammons  
Troy A. Gahm  
David Flowers  
Philip Shephard

### CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

2 CFR § 200.511(c)

JUNE 30, 2025

**Finding Number:** 2025-001

**Planned Corrective Action:** The School District does not report on the GAAP basis due to financial concerns. With the current economic conditions, which includes reductions in funding sources, and the School District's current financial position, we have determined that the benefit of reporting on the GAAP basis does not outweigh the expense of having our consultant prepare a GAAP report instead of the cash report, as well as the additional audit expense that would exist with preparing a GAAP report. At this time, the School District does not anticipate filing on a GAAP basis in the near future. If financial conditions improve the School District will consider preparing GAAP basis financial reports in the future.

**Anticipated Completion Date:** 06/30/2026

**Responsible Contact Person:** Kristi Hall, Treasurer

**Finding Number:** 2025-002

**Planned Corrective Action:** The School District will attempt to correct these errors in the future.

**Anticipated Completion Date:** 06/30/2026

**Responsible Contact Person:** Kristi Hall, Treasurer

*" Education is our Chief Concern "*

1821 St. Rt. 728 • Lucasville, OH 45648

Phone (740) 259-3115 • Fax (740) 259-2314



# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



**VALLEY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**SCIOTO 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 2/19/2026**

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

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