



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



**NORTHWESTERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
WAYNE COUNTY
JUNE 30, 2022**

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Northwestern Local School District
Wayne County
7571 N. Elyria Road
West Salem, OH 44287

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, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Northwestern Local School District, Wayne County, Ohio (the School District), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2022, 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, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the School District, as of June 30, 2022, and the respective changes in cash-basis financial position thereof 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 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.

Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note 17 to the financial statements, the financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures may impact subsequent periods of the School District. 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 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 to opine on the financial statements as a whole 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 (are) presented for purposes of additional analysis and is (are) 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 to 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 Information

We applied no procedures to management's discussion & analysis as listed in the table of contents. Accordingly, we express no opinion or any other assurance on it.

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

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated November 14, 2023, 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
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

November 14, 2023

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Northwestern Local School District
Wayne County, Ohio
(Unaudited)
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022

The discussion and analysis of the Northwestern Local School District's (the "School District") financial performance provides an overall review of the School District's financial activities for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022. The intent of this discussion and analysis is to look at the School District's performance as a whole; readers should also review the notes to the basic financial statements to enhance their understanding of the School District's financial performance.

Financial Highlights

Key financial highlights for fiscal year 2022 are as follows:

- Net position increased \$2,506,144 during fiscal year 2022.

Using this Annual Report

This annual report consists of a series of financial statements and notes to those statements. The statements are organized so the reader can understand the Northwestern Local School District as a whole, entire operating entity. The statements then proceed to provide an increasingly detailed look at specific financial activities.

The *Statement of Net Position* and *Statement of Activities* provide information about the activities of the whole School District. Fund financial statements provide the next level of detail. For governmental funds, these statements tell how services were financed in the short-term as well as what remains for future spending. The fund financial statements also look at the School District's most significant funds with all other non-major funds presented in total in one column. For fiscal year 2022, the general fund is the School District's most significant fund.

Basis of Accounting

The School District has elected to present its financial statements on the cash basis of accounting. This cash basis of accounting is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles. The cash basis of accounting involves the measurement of cash and investments and changes in cash and investments resulting from cash receipt and disbursement transactions.

Essentially, the only assets reported on this strictly cash receipt and disbursement basis presentation in a statement of net position will be cash and investments. The statement of activities reports cash receipts and disbursements, or in other words, the sources and uses of cash and investments. Therefore, when reviewing the financial information and discussion within this annual report, the reader should keep in mind the limitations resulting from the use of the cash basis of accounting.

Reporting the School District as a Whole

Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities

While this document contains the large number of funds used by the School District to provide programs and activities, the view of the School District as a whole looks at all financial transactions and asks the question, "How did we do financially during fiscal year 2022?" The statement of net position and the statement of activities answer this question.

Northwestern Local School District
Wayne County, Ohio
(Unaudited)
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022

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

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

Reporting the School District's Most Significant Funds

Fund Financial Statements

Fund financial reports provide detailed information about the School District's major funds. The School District uses many funds to account for financial transactions. However, these fund financial statements focus on the School District's most significant funds. The School District's major governmental funds are the general fund and permanent improvement fund.

Governmental Funds - Most of the School District's activities are reported in governmental funds, which focus on how money flows into and out of those funds and the balances left at year-end available for spending in future periods. These funds are reported using the cash basis of accounting. The governmental fund statements provide a detailed short-term view of the School District's general government operations and the basic services it provides. Governmental fund information helps determine whether there are more or less financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance educational programs.

Reporting the School District's Fiduciary Responsibilities

Fiduciary funds - Fiduciary funds are used to account for resources held for the benefit of parties outside the School District. These funds are not reflected in the government-wide financial statements because the resources are not available to support the School District's own programs.

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Northwestern Local School District
Wayne County, Ohio
(Unaudited)
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022

The School District as a Whole

Table 1 provides a summary of the School District's net position for fiscal years 2022 compared to 2021.

(Table 1)
Net Position – Cash Basis

	Governmental Activities		
	2022	2021	Change
Assets			
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 8,585,520	\$ 6,079,376	\$2,506,144
Net Position			
Restricted for:			
Capital Outlay	755,160	690,818	64,342
Debt Service	77,303	45,605	31,698
Other Purposes	873,959	571,112	302,847
Unrestricted	6,879,098	4,771,841	2,107,257
<i>Total Net Position</i>	<u>\$ 8,585,520</u>	<u>\$ 6,079,376</u>	<u>\$2,506,144</u>

A portion of the School District's net position represents resources subject to external restrictions on how they may be used. The remaining balance of the government-wide unrestricted net position may be used to meet the School District's ongoing obligations.

The increase in cash and net position is mostly the result of the School District receiving COVID relief funding, increased property taxes, and increased foundation funding in addition to an overall decrease in expenses due to conservative spending. See Table 2 for more detail.

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Northwestern Local School District
Wayne County, Ohio
(Unaudited)
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022

Table 2 shows the changes in net position for fiscal year 2022 as compared to fiscal year 2021.

(Table 2)
Changes in Net Position - Cash Basis

	Governmental Activities		
	2022	2021	Change
Receipts			
Program Receipts			
Charges for Services and Sales	\$1,370,185	\$1,911,366	\$ (541,181)
Operating Grants, Contributions and Interest	2,402,630	2,550,681	(148,051)
Capital Grants and Contributions	685	422	263
<i>Total Program Receipts</i>	<u>3,773,500</u>	<u>4,462,469</u>	<u>(688,969)</u>
General Receipts			
Property Taxes	4,497,692	4,479,405	18,287
Income Taxes	2,526,492	2,402,893	123,599
Grants and Entitlements not Restricted to			
Specific Programs	8,461,427	7,165,177	1,296,250
Investment Earnings	18,335	6,117	12,218
Miscellaneous	142,449	524,005	(381,556)
<i>Total General Receipts</i>	<u>15,646,395</u>	<u>14,577,597</u>	<u>1,068,798</u>
<i>Total Receipts</i>	<u>19,419,895</u>	<u>19,040,066</u>	<u>379,829</u>
Program Disbursements			
Instruction:			
Regular	7,108,340	7,446,655	(338,315)
Special	1,946,819	2,112,112	(165,293)
Vocational	229,508	168,571	60,937
Student Intervention Services	8,220	10,808	(2,588)
Other	237,048	614,465	(377,417)
Support Services:			
Pupils	1,285,460	699,473	585,987
Instructional Staff	655,124	486,220	168,904
Board of Education	88,609	157,575	(68,966)
Administration	1,138,972	948,674	190,298
Fiscal	387,493	291,328	96,165
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	1,293,512	1,119,746	173,766
Pupil Transportation	921,159	765,943	155,216
Central	1,179	-	1,179
Operation of Non-Instructional Services:			
Food Service Operations	610,417	496,825	113,592
Community Services	35,178	2,500	32,678
Extracurricular Activities	552,000	476,910	75,090
Capital Outlay	414,713	446,467	(31,754)
Debt Service:			
Principal Retirement	-	995,000	(995,000)
Interest and Fiscal Charges	-	21,071	(21,071)
<i>Total Program Disbursements</i>	<u>16,913,751</u>	<u>17,260,343</u>	<u>(346,592)</u>
<i>Change in Net Position</i>	2,506,144	1,779,723	726,421
<i>Net Position Beginning of Year</i>	<u>6,079,376</u>	<u>4,299,653</u>	<u>1,779,723</u>
<i>Net Position End of Year</i>	<u>\$8,585,520</u>	<u>\$6,079,376</u>	<u>\$2,506,144</u>

Northwestern Local School District
Wayne County, Ohio
(Unaudited)
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022

The decrease in program receipts was primarily the result of decreased charges for services. The decrease in charges for services and correlating increase in grants and entitlements is due to a change in the foundation funding formula. Miscellaneous receipts decreased primarily due to a large refund received by the School District in 2021.

Program disbursements decreased as a result of a change in open enrollment reporting due to the change in the foundation funding formula and decreased principal retirement as the School District paid outstanding debt in full during 2021.

The School District's Funds

The School District's governmental funds are accounted for using the cash basis of accounting. The following table provides a summary of the School District's fund balances by major fund for 2022 compared to 2021.

	Fund Balance 6/30/2022	Restated Fund Balance 6/30/2021	Increase (Decrease)
General	\$ 7,169,657	\$ 4,890,868	\$ 2,278,789
Permanent Improvement	755,160	690,818	64,342
Other Governmental	660,703	497,690	163,013
<i>Total</i>	<u>\$ 8,585,520</u>	<u>\$ 6,079,376</u>	<u>\$ 2,506,144</u>

The general fund's fund balance increased primarily due to increased property and income taxes, increased foundation funding and conservative spending. In addition, grant funding from COVID-19 was used to offset costs of the general fund. See Note 2 for information about the restated 2021 fund balance.

The permanent improvement fund's net change in fund balance was an increase resulting primarily from normal operations.

General Fund Budgeting Highlights

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

Original Budget Compared to Final Budget During the course of fiscal year 2022, the School District did amend its general fund budget for estimated receipts and other financing sources primarily to increase intergovernmental and income tax receipts. The School District decreased estimated disbursements and other financing uses due to changes to the treatment of open enrollment disbursements, as previously discussed.

Final Budget Compared to Actual Results For fiscal year 2022, there were no significant differences between final budgeted receipts and other financing sources and actual receipts and other financing sources. The most significant difference between final budgeted disbursements and other financing uses resulted from an underestimation of regular instruction and an overestimation of administration and operation and maintenance of plant expenditures and changes to the treatment of open enrollment disbursements.

Northwestern Local School District
Wayne County, Ohio
(Unaudited)
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022

Contacting the School District's Financial Management

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, taxpayers, investors, and creditors with a general overview of the School District's finances and to show the School District's accountability for the money it receives. If you have any questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact Jerry Buccilla, Treasurer of Northwestern Local Schools, 7571 North Elyria Road, West Salem, Ohio 44287, e-mail nrws_jbuccilla@tccsa.net.

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Northwestern Local School District
Wayne County, Ohio
Statement of Net Position - Cash Basis
June 30, 2022

	Governmental Activities
Assets	
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 8,585,520
Net Position	
Restricted for:	
Capital Outlay	\$ 755,160
Debt Service	77,303
Other Purposes	873,959
Unrestricted	6,879,098
<i>Total Net Position</i>	\$ 8,585,520

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Northwestern Local School District
Wayne County, Ohio
Statement of Activities - Cash Basis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022

	Program Cash Receipts				Net (Disbursements) Receipts and Changes in Net Position
	Cash Disbursements	Charges for Services and Sales	Operating Grants, Contributions and Interest	Capital Grants and Contributions	Governmental Activities
Governmental Activities					
Instruction:					
Regular	\$ 7,108,340	\$ 762,189	\$ 48,717	\$ -	\$ (6,297,434)
Special	1,946,819	216,761	783,406	-	(946,652)
Vocational	229,508	-	-	-	(229,508)
Student Intervention Services	8,220	-	-	-	(8,220)
Other	237,048	-	-	-	(237,048)
Support Services:					
Pupils	1,285,460	26,896	637,542	-	(621,022)
Instructional Staff	655,124	-	5,400	-	(649,724)
Board of Education	88,609	-	-	-	(88,609)
Administration	1,138,972	-	-	-	(1,138,972)
Fiscal	387,493	-	5	12	(387,476)
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	1,293,512	-	37,337	-	(1,256,175)
Pupil Transportation	921,159	-	-	-	(921,159)
Central	1,179	-	-	-	(1,179)
Operation of Non-Instructional Services:					
Food Service Operations	610,417	69,946	888,891	-	348,420
Community Services	35,178	-	1,318	-	(33,860)
Extracurricular Activities	552,000	294,393	14	1	(257,592)
Capital Outlay	414,713	-	-	672	(414,041)
<i>Totals</i>	<u>\$ 16,913,751</u>	<u>\$ 1,370,185</u>	<u>\$ 2,402,630</u>	<u>\$ 685</u>	<u>(13,140,251)</u>

General Receipts

Property Taxes Levied for:

General Purposes	3,961,898
Debt Service	27,315
Capital Outlay	452,773
Classroom Facilities	55,706

Income Taxes Levied for:

General Purposes	2,526,492
Grants and Entitlements not Restricted to Specific Programs	8,461,427
Investment Earnings	18,335
Miscellaneous	142,449

Total General Receipts 15,646,395

Change in Net Position 2,506,144

Net Position Beginning of Year 6,079,376

Net Position End of Year \$ 8,585,520

Northwestern Local School District
Wayne County, Ohio
Statement of Assets and Fund Balances - Cash Basis
Governmental Funds
June 30, 2022

	<u>General</u>	<u>Permanent Improvement Fund</u>	<u>Other Governmental Funds</u>	<u>Total Governmental Funds</u>
Assets				
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 7,169,657	\$ 755,160	\$ 660,703	\$ 8,585,520
Fund Balances				
Restricted	\$ -	\$ 755,160	\$ 951,262	\$ 1,706,422
Assigned	140,317	-	-	140,317
Unassigned	7,029,340	-	(290,559)	6,738,781
<i>Total Fund Balances</i>	<u>\$ 7,169,657</u>	<u>\$ 755,160</u>	<u>\$ 660,703</u>	<u>\$ 8,585,520</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

Northwestern Local School District
Wayne County, Ohio
Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes
in Fund Balances - Cash Basis - Governmental Funds
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022

	General	Permanent Improvement Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Receipts				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 3,961,898	\$ 452,773	\$ 83,021	\$ 4,497,692
Income Taxes	2,526,492	-	-	2,526,492
Intergovernmental	8,393,661	31,394	2,428,153	10,853,208
Investment Income	18,008	685	1,976	20,669
Tuition and Fees	910,850	-	-	910,850
Extracurricular Activities	94,996	-	294,393	389,389
Gifts and Donations	-	-	9,200	9,200
Charges for Services	-	-	69,946	69,946
Miscellaneous	130,829	2,175	9,445	142,449
<i>Total Receipts</i>	<u>16,036,734</u>	<u>487,027</u>	<u>2,896,134</u>	<u>19,419,895</u>
Disbursements				
Current:				
Instruction:				
Regular	7,032,712	-	75,628	7,108,340
Special	1,130,832	-	815,987	1,946,819
Vocational	229,508	-	-	229,508
Student Intervention Services	8,220	-	-	8,220
Other	237,048	-	-	237,048
Support Services:				
Pupils	534,682	-	750,778	1,285,460
Instructional Staff	641,779	-	13,345	655,124
Board of Education	88,609	-	-	88,609
Administration	1,138,972	-	-	1,138,972
Fiscal	378,466	7,579	1,448	387,493
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	1,067,798	-	225,714	1,293,512
Pupil Transportation	921,159	-	-	921,159
Central	1,179	-	-	1,179
Extracurricular Activities	313,872	393	237,735	552,000
Operation of Non-Instructional Services:				
Food Service Operations	-	-	610,417	610,417
Community Services	32,928	-	2,250	35,178
Capital Outlay	-	414,713	-	414,713
<i>Total Disbursements</i>	<u>13,757,764</u>	<u>422,685</u>	<u>2,733,302</u>	<u>16,913,751</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	<u>2,278,970</u>	<u>64,342</u>	<u>162,832</u>	<u>2,506,144</u>
Other Financing Sources (Uses)				
Advances In	4,468	-	4,649	9,117
Advances Out	(4,649)	-	(4,668)	(9,117)
<i>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</i>	<u>(181)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>181</u>	<u>-</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Balances</i>	2,278,789	64,342	163,013	2,506,144
<i>Fund Balances Beginning of Year, Restated, (See Note 2)</i>	<u>4,890,868</u>	<u>690,818</u>	<u>497,690</u>	<u>6,079,376</u>
<i>Fund Balances End of Year</i>	<u>\$ 7,169,657</u>	<u>\$ 755,160</u>	<u>\$ 660,703</u>	<u>\$ 8,585,520</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

Northwestern Local School District
Wayne County, Ohio
Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in
Cash Basis Fund Balance - Budget and Actual (Budget Basis)
General Fund
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with Final Budget
	Original	Final		
Receipts and Other Financing Sources	\$ 15,230,000	\$ 15,985,812	\$ 15,887,759	\$ (98,053)
Disbursements and Other Financing Uses	15,983,689	15,183,689	13,670,547	1,513,142
Net Change in Fund Balance	(753,689)	802,123	2,217,212	1,415,089
<i>Fund Balance Beginning of Year</i>	4,514,871	4,514,871	4,514,871	-
Prior Year Encumbrances Appropriated	183,689	183,689	183,689	-
<i>Fund Balance End of Year</i>	<u>\$ 3,944,871</u>	<u>\$ 5,500,683</u>	<u>\$ 6,915,772</u>	<u>\$ 1,415,089</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

Northwestern Local School District
Wayne County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022

NOTE 1 - DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND REPORTING ENTITY

The Northwestern Local School District, Wayne County, Ohio, (the School District) is a body corporate and politic established to exercise the rights and privileges conveyed to it by the constitution and laws of the State of Ohio. The School District is a local school district as defined by Section 3311.03 of the Ohio Revised Code. The School District operates under an elected Board of Education, consisting of five members and is responsible for providing public education to residents of the School District.

The School District provides regular, vocational, special instruction and student intervention services. The School District also provides support services for the pupils, instructional staff, administration, fiscal services, facilities acquisition and construction services, operation and maintenance of plant, pupil transportation, food services, extracurricular activities and non-programmed services.

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 provides 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 does not have any component units.

The School District is involved with Tri-County Computer Service Association (TCCSA), which is defined as a jointly governed organization, and the Wayne County Schools Council of Governments Health Care Benefit Program, which is a public entity risk pool.

Tri-County Computer Service Association (TCCSA) The Midland Council of Governments dba/Tri-County Computer Services Association is organized under Chapter 167 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Tri-County Computer Services Association (TCCSA) is a jointly governed organization. The jointly governed organization was formed for the purpose of applying modern technology with the aid of computers and other electronic equipment to administrative and instructional functions for member districts in Ashland, Holmes, Medina and Wayne counties. TCCSA is governed by representatives from each of the participating public school districts served by TCCSA. TCCSA is recognized as one of twenty-three regional Information Technology Centers (ITC) as defined by the Ohio Department of Education. Each of the participating districts supports TCCSA based upon a per pupil charge dependent upon the software package utilized. Financial information can be obtained by contacting the Executive Director at the Tri-County Computer Services Association located at 2125 Eagle Pass, Wooster, OH 44691.

Public Entity Risk Pool The Wayne County Schools Council for Health Care Benefit Program is a shared risk pool created pursuant to state statute for the purpose of administering health care benefits. The Council is governed by an assembly which consists of one representative from each participating school district (usually superintendent, treasurer or executive member of governing body). The Council elects officers to serve on the Board of Directors. The assembly exercises control over the operation of the Council. Council revenues are generated from charges for services from participating school districts, based on the established premiums for the insurance plans. Each school district reserves the right to terminate the plan in whole or in part, at any time. If it is terminated, no further contributions will be made, but the benefits under the insurance contract shall be paid in accordance with terms of the contract.

Northwestern Local School District
Wayne County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

As discussed further in Note 2.A., 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.

A. Basis of Accounting

Although Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 (B) requires the School District's financial report to follow generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), the School District chooses to prepare its financial statements and notes in accordance with the cash basis of accounting. This basis of accounting is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting. The School District recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. The School District also reports investments as assets, valued at cost basis.

Budgetary presentations report budgetary disbursements when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved). Differences between disbursements reported in the government-wide and fund financial statements versus budgetary disbursements result from encumbrances outstanding at the beginning and end of the fiscal year.

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, in accordance with the basis of accounting described in the preceding paragraph.

B. 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.

1. 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, except for fiduciary funds.

The statement of net position presents the financial condition 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 and grants, contributions, and interest restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of 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 or draws from the School District's general receipts.

Northwestern Local School District
Wayne County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022

2. Fund Financial Statements

During the fiscal year, the School District segregates transactions related to certain School District functions or activities in 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. Fiduciary funds are reported by type.

A fund is considered major if it is the primary operating fund of the School District or meets the following criteria:

1. Total assets, receipts or disbursements of that individual governmental fund are at least 10 percent of the corresponding total for all funds of that category or type, and
2. Total assets, receipts or disbursements of that individual governmental fund are at least 5 percent of the corresponding total for all governmental funds combined.

C. 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. The funds of the School District are divided into three categories, governmental, proprietary and fiduciary.

Governmental Funds - Governmental funds are those through which most governmental functions of the School District are financed. The following are the School District's major governmental funds:

General Fund – The general fund accounts for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for 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.

Permanent Improvement Fund - The permanent improvement fund receives property taxes for acquisition, construction or improvement of capital facilities. The permanent improvement fund balance is available to the School District for transportation, technology and building maintenance.

The other governmental funds of the School District account for grants and other resources to which the School District is bound to observe constraints imposed internally or externally.

Proprietary Funds The School District classifies funds financed primarily from user charges for goods or services as proprietary. Proprietary funds are classified as enterprise or internal service; the School District has no proprietary funds.

Northwestern Local School District
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Fiduciary Funds - Fiduciary fund reporting focuses on net position and changes in net position. The fiduciary fund category is split into the following four classifications: pension (and other employee benefit) trust funds, investment trust funds, private-purpose trust funds and custodial funds. Trust funds are distinguished from custodial funds by the existence of a trust agreement or equivalent arrangements that has certain characteristics. Custodial Funds are used to report fiduciary activities that are not required to be reported in a trust fund. The School District reported no fiduciary activity for the current fiscal year.

D. Budgetary Process

The budgetary process is prescribed by provisions of the Ohio Revised Code and entails the preparation of budgetary documents within an established timetable. The major documents prepared are the Tax Budget, the Certificate of Estimated Resources, and the Appropriation Resolution, all of which are prepared on the budgetary basis of accounting. The Certificate of Estimated Resources and the Appropriations Resolution are subject to amendment throughout the year with the legal restriction that appropriations cannot exceed estimated resources, as certified.

All funds, other than agency funds, are legally required to be budgeted and appropriated. The primary level of budgetary control selected by the Board is at the fund level for all funds. Any budgetary modifications at this level may only be made by resolution of the Board of Education. Budgetary allocations at the object and function level within all funds are made by the Treasurer.

Advances in and Advances out are not required to be budgeted since they represent a temporary cash flow resource and are intended to be repaid.

The difference between the budgetary basis and the cash basis is outstanding year end encumbrances which are treated as cash disbursements (budgetary basis) rather than as restricted or assigned fund balance (cash basis).

Tax Budget

Prior to January 15, the Superintendent and Treasurer submit to the Board of Education a proposed operating budget for the fiscal year commencing the following July 1. The budget includes proposed disbursements and the means of financing for all funds. Public hearings are publicized and conducted to obtain taxpayers' comments. The express purpose of this budget document is to reflect the need for existing (or increased) tax rates.

By no later than January 20, the Board-adopted budget is filed with the County Budget Commission for rate determination.

Estimated Resources

Prior to April 1, the Board of Education accepts, by formal resolution, the tax rates as determined by the County Budget Commission and receives the Commission's Certificate of Estimated Resources which states the projected receipt of each fund. Prior to June 30, the School District must revise its budget so that total contemplated disbursements from any fund during the ensuing year will not exceed the amount stated in the Certificate of Estimated Resources. The revised budget then serves as the basis for the appropriation measure. On or about July 1, the certificate is amended to include any unencumbered cash balances from the preceding year. The certificate may be further amended during the year if projected increases or decreases in receipt are identified by the School District's Treasurer.

Northwestern Local School District
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Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022

Appropriations

Upon receipt from the County Auditor of an Amended Certificate of Estimated Resources based on final assessed values and tax rates or a certificate saying a new certificate is not necessary, the annual Appropriation Resolution Report must be legally enacted by the Board of Education at the fund level of disbursements, which is the legal level of budgetary control. Prior to the passage of the annual appropriation measure, the Board may pass a temporary appropriation measure to meet the ordinary disbursements of the School District. The Appropriation Resolution, by fund, must be within the estimated resources as certified by the County Budget Commission and the total of disbursements and encumbrances may not exceed the appropriation totals at any level of control. Any revisions that alter the total of any fund appropriation must be approved by the Board of Education.

The Board may pass supplemental fund appropriations so long as the total appropriations by fund do not exceed the amounts set forth in the most recent Certificate of Estimated Resources. During the year, several supplemental appropriations were legally enacted.

Encumbrances

As part of formal budgetary control, purchase orders, contracts, and other commitments for the expenditure of monies are recorded as the equivalent of disbursements on the non-GAAP budgetary basis in order to reserve that portion of the applicable appropriation and to determine and maintain legal compliance. Disbursements plus encumbrances may not legally exceed appropriations. Encumbrances outstanding at fiscal year-end are reported as a restricted or assigned fund balance for subsequent-year disbursements for governmental funds.

Lapsing of Appropriations

At the close of each fiscal year, the unencumbered balance of each appropriation reverts to the respective fund from which it was appropriated and becomes subject to future appropriation. Encumbered appropriations are carried forward to the succeeding fiscal year and are not re-appropriated.

E. Cash and Investments

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

During fiscal year 2022, the School District invested in STAR Ohio. STAR Ohio (the State Treasury Asset Reserve of Ohio), is an investment pool managed by the State Treasurer's Office which allows governments within the State to pool their funds for investment purposes. STAR Ohio is not registered with the SEC as an investment company, but has adopted Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), Statement No. 79, *Certain External Investment Pools and Pool Participants*. The School District measures their investment in STAR Ohio at the net asset value (NAV) per share provided by STAR Ohio. The NAV per share is calculated on an amortized cost basis that provides an NAV per share that approximates fair value.

Northwestern Local School District
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For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022

For the fiscal year 2022, there were no limitations or restrictions on any participant withdrawals due to redemption notice periods, liquidity fees, or redemption gates. However, notice must be given 24 hours in advance of all deposits and withdrawals exceeding \$25 million. STAR Ohio reserves the right to limit the transaction to \$250 million, requiring the excess amount to be transacted the following business day(s), but only to the \$250 million limit. All accounts of the participant will be combined for these purposes.

Following Ohio Statutes, the Board of Education has, by resolution, specified the funds to receive an allocation of interest earnings. Interest receipts credited to the General Fund during fiscal year 2022 were \$17,744, which includes \$1,005 interest assigned from other School District funds.

Investments of the School District's 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 "equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents." Investments with an initial maturity of more than three months that were not purchased from the cash management pool are reported as "Investments."

F. Capital Assets

Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment are recorded as disbursements when paid. The financial statements do not report these assets. Depreciation is not recorded on these capital assets.

G. Compensated Absences

Employees are entitled to cash payments for unused sick leave in certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment. Unpaid sick leave are not reflected as liabilities under the cash basis of accounting used by the School District.

H. Long-term Debt

The School District's cash basis financial statements do not report liabilities for bonds, leases and other long-term obligations. Proceeds of debt are reported when cash is received and principal and interest payments are reported when paid. Since recording a leased asset when entering into a lease is not the result of a cash transaction, neither an other financing source nor a capital outlay expenditure is reported at inception. Lease payments are reported when paid.

I. Intergovernmental Receipts

Unrestricted intergovernmental receipts received on the basis of entitlement are recorded as receipts when the entitlement is received. Federal and State reimbursement type grants for the acquisition or construction of capital assets are recorded as receipts when the grant is received.

J. 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.

Northwestern Local School District
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Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022

K. Employer Contributions to Cost-Sharing Pension Plans

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

L. Equity Classifications

GOVERNMENT-WIDE STATEMENTS

Equity is classified as net position and is displayed in separate components:

1. Restricted net position – Consists of net position with constraints placed on the use either by (1) external groups such as creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments, or (2) law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation adopted by the School District. Net position restricted for other purposes include resources restricted for food service operations, music and athletic programs, and federal and state grants restricted to expenditure for specified purposes. At June 30, 2022, there was no net position restricted by enabling legislation.
2. Unrestricted net position – All other net position that do not meet the definition of “restricted.”

The School District’s policy is to first apply restricted resources when a cash disbursement is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position are available.

FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Governmental fund equity is classified as 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 governmental funds. The classifications are as follows:

- a. Non-spendable - The non-spendable classification includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are not in spendable form or legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. The “not in spendable form” includes items that are not expected to be converted to cash.
- b. 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.
- c. Committed - The committed classification includes amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes imposed by a formal action (resolution) of the Board of Education. The committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the 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.

Northwestern Local School District
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- d. Assigned - Amounts in the assigned 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. In the General Fund, assigned amounts represent intended uses established by the Board of Education. The Board of Education has by resolution authorized the Treasurer to assign fund balance. The Board of Education may also assign fund balance as it does when appropriating fund balance to cover a gap between estimated revenue and appropriations in the subsequent year's appropriated budget.
- e. Unassigned - Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the General Fund and includes all spendable amounts not contained in the other classifications. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is used only to report a deficit balance resulting from overspending for specific purposes for which amounts had been restricted, committed, or assigned.

The School District first applies restricted resources when an expenditure is 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 can be used.

M. Interfund Activity

Transfers within governmental activities are eliminated on the government-wide financial statements.

During the course of normal operations, the School District has numerous transactions between funds. The most significant include:

1. Transfers of resources from one fund to another fund through which resources to be expended are recorded as transfers.
2. Reimbursements from one fund to another are treated as disbursements/expenses in the reimbursing fund and a reduction in disbursements/expense in the reimbursed fund.

N. Receipts and Disbursements

Program Receipts

In the Statement of Activities, receipts that are derived directly from each activity or from parties outside the School District's taxpayers are reported as program receipts. The School District has the following program receipts: charges for services and sales, operating grants, contributions and interest.

All other governmental receipts are reported as general. All taxes are classified as general receipts even if restricted for a specific purpose.

Northwestern Local School District
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Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
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Disbursements

Governmental activities include the School District's programs and services, including instruction, support services, operation and maintenance of plant (buildings), pupil transportation, extracurricular activities, and food service operations.

O. Extraordinary and Special Items

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

P. Pensions and OPEB

For purposes of measuring the net pension/OPEB asset/liability, 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 respective retirement plans. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of member contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. The retirement plans report investments at fair value.

Q. Implementation of New Accounting Policies and Restatement of Fund Balances

Implementation of New Accounting Principles

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022, the School District has (to the extent it applies to the cash basis of accounting) implemented Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 87, *Leases*, certain provisions of GASB Statement No. 93, *Replacement of Interbank Offered Rates* and certain provisions of GASB Statement No. 97, *Certain Component Unit Criteria, and Accounting and Financial Reporting for Internal Revenue Code Section 457 Deferred Compensation Plans—an amendment of GASB Statements No. 14 and No. 84, and a supersession of GASB Statement No. 32*.

GASB Statement No. 87 requires recognition of certain lease assets and liabilities for leases that previously were classified as operating leases and recognized as inflows of resources or outflows of resources based on the payment provisions of the contract. It establishes a single model for lease accounting based on the foundational principle that leases are financings of the right to use an underlying asset. These changes were incorporated in the School District's financial statements; however, there was no effect on beginning net position/fund balance.

GASB Statement No. 93 addresses accounting and financial reporting effects that result from the replacement of interbank offered rates (IBORs) with other reference rates in order to preserve the reliability, relevance, consistency, and comparability of reported information. The implementation of paragraphs 13 and 14 of GASB Statement No. 93 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the School District.

Northwestern Local School District
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GASB Statement No. 97 requirements that are related to a) the accounting and financial reporting for Section 457 plans and 2) determining whether a primary government is financially accountable for a potential component unit were implemented for fiscal year 2022. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 97 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the School District.

Restatement of Fund Balances

The School District previously reported an internal service fund, however, it was determined that the School District was not self-insured for dental. The fund is being reported as part of the general fund. The adjustments necessary for the restatement of the fund balances is as follows:

	<u>Governmental Funds</u>
	<u>General Fund</u>
Fund Balance, June 30, 2021	\$ 4,864,034
Adjustment for Fund Reclassification	26,834
Restated Fund Balance, June 30, 2021	<u>\$ 4,890,868</u>
	<u>Proprietary Funds</u>
	<u>Internal Service</u>
Net Position, June 30, 2021	\$ 26,834
Adjustment for Fund Reclassification	(26,834)
Restated Net Position, June 30, 2021	<u>\$ -</u>

NOTE 3 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

Monies held by the School District are classified by State statute into three categories.

Active monies are public monies determined to be necessary to meet current demands upon the School District Treasury. Active 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 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 deposits must be evidenced by time certificates of deposit maturing not more than one year from the date of deposit or by savings or deposit accounts, including passbook accounts.

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Protection of the School District's deposits is provided by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), by eligible securities pledged by the financial institution as security for repayment, or by the financial institutions 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.

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, Government National Mortgage Association, and Student Loan Marketing Association. All federal agency securities shall be direct issuances of federal government agencies or instrumentalities;
3. Written repurchase agreements in the securities listed above; provided that the market value of the securities subject to the repurchase agreement must exceed the principal value of the agreement by at least 2 percent and be marked to market daily, and that the term of the agreement must not exceed thirty days;
4. Bonds and other obligations of the State of Ohio or Ohio local governments;
5. No-load money market mutual funds consisting exclusively of obligations described in division (1) or (2) of this section and repurchase agreements secured by such obligations, provided that investments in securities described in this division are made only through eligible institutions.
6. The State Treasurer's investment pool (STAR Ohio);
7. Certain bankers' acceptances and commercial paper notes for a period not to exceed one hundred and eighty days and two hundred and seventy days, respectively, in an amount not to exceed 40 percent of the interim moneys available for investment at any one time;
8. Under certain circumstances, corporate debt interests rated in either of the two highest rating classifications by at least two nationally recognized rating agencies.

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 securities representing the investments to the treasurer or, if the securities are not represented by a certificate, upon receipt of confirmation of transfer from the custodian.

Northwestern Local School District
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Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
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Cash on Hand - At June 30, 2022 the School District had \$1,995 in undeposited cash on hand, which is included as part of “Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents.”

Deposits - At year-end, \$746,400 of the School District’s bank balance was exposed to custodial credit risk. Although the securities were held by the pledging financial institutions’ trust department in the School District’s name and all statutory requirements for the investment of money had been followed, noncompliance with Federal requirements could potentially subject the School District to a successful claim by the FDIC.

Investments

As of June 30, 2022, the School District had the following investments:

<u>Rating</u>	<u>Entity</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Investment Maturities In Months (0-12)</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Investment</u>
	Net Asset Value (NAV):			
AAAm	STAR Ohio	<u>\$ 8,047,419</u>	<u>\$ 8,047,419</u>	100.00%

Interest Rate Risk - The School District has no investment policy that addresses interest rate risk. State statute requires that an investment mature within five years from the date of purchase, unless matched to a specific obligation or debt of the School District, and that an investment must be purchased with the expectation that it will be held to maturity. State statute limits investments in commercial paper to a maximum maturity of 180 days from the date of purchase. Repurchase agreements are limited to 30 days and the market value of the securities must exceed the principal value of the agreement by at least 2 percent and be marked to market daily.

Credit Risk - The School District’s investment credit ratings are summarized above. STAR Ohio is an investment pool operated by the Ohio State Treasurer. It is unclassified since it is not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book entry form. Ohio law requires STAR Ohio maintain the highest rating provided by at least one nationally recognized standard rating service. The weighted average of maturity of the portfolio held by STAR Ohio as of June 30, 2022 is 35 days.

Custodial Credit Risk - Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the School District will not be able to recover deposits or collateral securities that are in possession of an outside party.

The School District has no deposit policy for custodial risk beyond the requirements of State statute. Ohio law requires that deposits either be insured or 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

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- 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 required 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.

Concentration of Credit Risk - The School District places no limit on the amount the district may invest in any one issuer, however State statute limits investments in commercial paper and bankers' acceptances to 40 percent of the interim monies available for investment at any one time. The table above includes the percentage of total of each investment type held by the School District at June 30, 2022.

NOTE 4 - PROPERTY AND INCOME TAXES

A. 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 and public utility property located in the School District. Real property tax revenue received in calendar year 2022 represents collections of calendar year 2021 taxes. Real property taxes received in calendar year 2022 were levied after April 1, 2021, on the assessed value listed as of January 1, 2021, the lien date. Assessed values for real property taxes are established by State law at 35 percent of appraised market value. Real property taxes are payable annually or semi-annually. If paid annually, payment is due December 31; if paid semiannually, the first payment is due December 31 with the remainder payable by June 20. Under certain circumstances, State statute permits alternate payment dates to be established.

Public utility property tax revenue received in calendar 2022 represents collections of calendar year 2021 taxes. Public utility real and tangible personal property taxes received in calendar year 2022 became a lien December 31, 2020, were levied after April 1, 2021 and are collected in 2021 with real property taxes. Public utility real property is assessed at 35 percent of true value; public utility tangible personal property currently is assessed at varying percentages of true value.

The School District receives property taxes from Wayne and Ashland Counties. The County Auditors periodically advance to the School District its portion of the taxes collected. Second-half real property tax payments collected by the County by June 30, 2022, are available to finance fiscal year 2023 operations. The amount available to be advanced can vary based on the date the tax bills are sent.

The assessed values upon which the fiscal year 2022 taxes were collected are:

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	2021 Second Half Collections		2022 First Half Collections	
	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent
	Real Estate	\$ 176,162,610	89.86%	\$ 177,164,720
Public Utility Personal Property	19,888,390	10.14%	20,977,480	10.59%
	\$ 196,051,000	100.00%	\$ 198,142,200	100.00%
Full Tax Rate per \$1,000 of assessed value	\$ 31.00		\$ 30.50	

B. Income Taxes

The School District has a 1.25 percent income tax levy that is collected on earned income. Employers of residents are required to withhold income tax on compensation and remit the tax to the State. Taxpayers are required to file an annual return. The State makes quarterly distributions to the School District after withholding amounts for administrative fees and estimated refunds. Income tax receipts are credited to the general fund.

NOTE 5 - RISK MANAGEMENT

A. Property and Liability

The School District is exposed to various risks of loss related torts, theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets, errors, omissions, injuries to employees, and natural disasters. The School District has a comprehensive property and casualty policy with the Indiana Insurance Company. All board members, administrators and employees are covered under a school district liability policy with Indiana Insurance Company. There has not been a significant reduction in coverage from the prior year. The board president, superintendent, athletic director and food service director, each have a \$20,000 position bond with Travelers Casualty Insurance Company.

The Treasurer is covered under a surety bond in the amount of \$50,000. The bond is provided by the Travelers Casualty Insurance Company.

B. Workers Compensation

The School District pays the State Workers' Compensation System a premium based on a rate per \$100 of salaries. The School District is a member of the Ohio School Board Association Group Rating System. The rate is calculated based on accident history and administrative costs. The group presently consists of over 400 school districts.

NOTE 6 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS

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

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Net Pension Liability/Net OPEB Liability (Asset)

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

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

Ohio Revised Code limits the 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 all funding to come from these employers. All contributions to date have come solely from these employers (which also includes costs paid in the form of withholdings from employees). State statute requires the pension plans to amortize unfunded liabilities (assets) within 30 years. If the amortization period exceeds 30 years, each pension plan’s board must propose corrective action to the State legislature. Any resulting legislative change to benefits or funding could significantly affect the net pension/OPEB liability (asset). Resulting adjustments to the net pension/OPEB liability (asset) would be effective when the changes are legally enforceable. The Ohio Revised Code permits, but does not require the retirement systems to provide healthcare to eligible benefit recipients.

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

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

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

Age and service requirements for retirement are as follows:

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	Eligible to Retire 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, may be included in this plan.

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

An individual whose benefit effective date is before April 1, 2018, is eligible for a cost of living adjustment (COLA) on the first anniversary date of the benefit. New benefit recipients must wait until the fourth anniversary of their benefit for COLA eligibility. The COLA is added each year to the base benefit amount on the anniversary date of the benefit. The COLA is indexed to the percentage increase in the CPIW, 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 calendar years 2018, 2019, and 2020. SERS approved a 0.5 percent COLA for calendar year 2021.

Funding Policy – Plan members are required to contribute 10 percent of their annual covered salary and the 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, 2022, the allocation to pension, death benefits, and Medicare B was 14.0 percent. SERS did not allocate employer contributions to the Health Care Fund for fiscal year 2022.

The School District’s contractually required contribution to SERS was \$263,766 for fiscal year 2022.

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 retirement system administered by STRS. STRS provides retirement and disability benefits to members and death and survivor benefits to beneficiaries. STRS issues a stand-alone financial report that includes financial statements, required supplementary information and detailed information about STRS’ fiduciary net position. That report can be obtained by writing to STRS, 275 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43215-3771, by calling (888) 227-7877, or by visiting the STRS Web site at www.strsoh.org.

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

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The DB Plan offers an annual retirement allowance based on final average salary multiplied by a percentage that varies based on years of service. Effective August 1, 2015, the calculation is 2.2 percent of final average salary for the five highest years of earnings multiplied by all years of service. Effective August 1, 2017 – July 1, 2019, any member could retire with reduced benefits who had (1) five years of service credit and age 60; (2) 27 years of service credit and age 55; or (3) 30 years of service credit regardless of age. Effective August 1, 2019 – July 1, 2021, any member may retire with reduced benefits who has (1) five years of service credit and age 60; (2) 28 years of service credit and age 55; or (3) 30 years of service credit regardless of age. Eligibility changes will continue to be phased in until August 1, 2026, when retirement eligibility for unreduced benefits will be five years of service credit and age 65, or 35 years of service credit and at least age 60. Eligibility changes for actuarially reduced benefits will be phased in until August 1, 2026, when retirement eligibility will be five years of qualifying service credit and age 60, or 30 years of service credit at any age.

The DC Plan allows members to place all their member contributions and 9.53 percent of the 14 percent employer contributions into an investment account. Investment allocation decisions are determined by the member. The remaining 4.47 percent of the 14 percent employer rate is allocated to the defined benefit plan unfunded liability. A member is eligible to receive a monthly retirement benefit at age 50 and termination of employment. The member may elect to receive a lifetime monthly annuity or a lump sum withdrawal.

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

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

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 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.

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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 statutory employer rate is 14 percent and the statutory member rate is 14 percent of covered payroll. The School District was required to contribute 14 percent; the entire 14 percent was the portion used to fund pension obligations. The 2022 contribution rates were equal to the statutory maximum rates.

The School District’s contractually required contribution to STRS was \$949,044 for fiscal year 2022.

Pension Liabilities

The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2021, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an independent actuarial valuation as of that date. The School District's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the employer’s share of employer contributions in the pension plan relative to the total employer contributions of all participating employers. Following is information related to the proportionate share:

	SERS	STRS	Total
Proportion of the Net Pension Liability:			
Current Measurement Date	0.05352530%	0.05355251%	
Prior Measurement Date	0.05567700%	0.05569996%	
Change in Proportionate Share	-0.00215170%	-0.00214745%	
Proportionate Share of the Net			
Pension Liability	\$ 1,974,928	\$ 6,847,169	\$ 8,822,097

Actuarial Assumptions - SERS

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

Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the employers and plan members) and include the types of benefits provided at the time of each valuation and the historical pattern of sharing benefit costs between the employers and plan members to that point. The projection of benefits for financial reporting purposes does not explicitly incorporate the potential effects of legal or contractual funding limitations. Future benefits for all current plan members were projected through 2132.

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

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Key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total pension liability in the latest actuarial valuation, prepared as of June 30, 2021, are presented below:

Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal (Level Percentage of Payroll, Closed)
Inflation	2.40 percent
Future Salary Increases, including inflation	3.25 percent to 13.58 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent, net of investment expense, including inflation
COLA or Ad Hoc COLA	2.00 percent, on and after April 1, 2018, COLA's for future retirees will be delayed for three years following commencement

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

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

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

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

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
Cash	2.00 %	(0.33) %
US Equity	24.75	5.72
Non-US Equity Developed	13.50	6.55
Non-US Equity Emerging	6.75	8.54
Fixed Income/Global Bonds	19.00	1.14
Private Equity	11.00	10.03
Real Estate/Real Assets	16.00	5.41
Multi-Asset Strategies	4.00	3.47
Private Debt/Private Credit	3.00	5.28
Total	<u>100.00 %</u>	

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Discount Rate Total pension liability was calculated using the discount rate of 7.00 percent. The discount rate determination does 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 23-year amortization period of the unfunded actuarial accrued liability. 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 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 was 28.18%. —

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

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
School District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 3,285,796	\$ 1,974,928	\$ 869,417

Actuarial Assumptions - STRS

Key methods and assumptions used in the latest actuarial valuation, reflecting experience study results used in the June 30, 2021, actuarial valuation, are presented below:

Inflation	2.50 percent
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal (Level Percent of Payroll)
Projected Salary Increases	12.50 percent at age 20 to 2.50 percent at age 65
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation
Payroll Increases	3.00 percent
Cost-of-Living Adjustments	0.00 percent

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

The actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2021 valuation, were based on the results of the latest available actuarial experience study, which is for the period July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2016. An actuarial experience study is done on a quinquennial basis.

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

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Rate of Return*</u>
Domestic Equity	28.00 %	7.35 %
International Equity	23.00	7.55
Alternatives	17.00	7.09
Fixed Income	21.00	3.00
Real Estate	10.00	6.00
Liquidity Reserves	1.00	2.25
Total	<u>100.00 %</u>	

*Ten year annualized geometric nominal returns, which include the real rate of return and inflation of 2.25 percent and does not include investment expenses. Over a 30-year period, STRS' investment consultant indicates that the above target allocations should generate a return above the actuarial rate of return, without net value added by management.

Discount Rate. The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.00 percent as of June 30, 2021. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumes that employer and member contributions will be made at statutory contribution rates of 14 percent each. 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, 2021. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on investments of 7.00 percent was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability as of June 30, 2021.

Sensitivity of the School District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate The following table represents the School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability as of June 30, 2021, 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 assumption:

	<u>1% Decrease</u>	<u>Current Discount Rate</u>	<u>1% Increase</u>
School District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 12,822,186	\$ 6,847,169	\$ 1,798,294

Assumption and Benefit Changes since the Prior Measurement Date The discount rate was adjusted to 7.00 percent from 7.45 percent for the June 30, 2021 valuation.

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NOTE 7 – DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS

See Note 6 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 in SERS' health care coverage. In addition to age and service retirees, disability benefit recipients and beneficiaries who are receiving monthly benefits due to the death of a member or retiree, are eligible for SERS' health care coverage. Most retirees and dependents choosing SERS' health care coverage are over the age of 65 and therefore enrolled in a fully insured Medicare Advantage plan; however, SERS maintains a traditional, self-insured preferred provider organization for its non-Medicare retiree population. For both groups, SERS offers a self-insured prescription drug program. Health care is a benefit that is permitted, not mandated, by statute. The financial report of the Plan is included in the SERS Annual Comprehensive Financial Report which can be obtained on SERS' website at www.ohsers.org under Employers/Audit Resources.

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

Funding Policy - State statute permits SERS to fund the health care benefits through employer contributions. Each year, after the allocation for statutorily required pensions and benefits, the Retirement Board may allocate the remainder of the employer contribution of 14 percent of covered payroll to the Health Care Fund in accordance with the funding policy. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022, SERS did not allocate any employer contributions 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 2022, this amount was \$25,000. Statutes provide that no employer shall pay a health care surcharge greater than 2.0 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 2022, the School District's surcharge obligation was \$34,498.

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Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

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

Funding Policy – Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3307 authorizes STRS to offer the Plan and gives the Retirement Board discretionary authority over how much, if any, of the health care costs will be absorbed by STRS. Active employee members do not contribute to the Health Care Plan. Nearly all health care plan enrollees, for the most recent year, pay a portion of the health care costs in the form of a monthly premium. Under Ohio law, funding for post-employment health care may be deducted from employer contributions, currently 14 percent of covered payroll. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022, STRS did not allocate any employer contributions to post-employment health care.

OPEB Liability (Asset)

The net OPEB liability (asset) was measured as of June 30, 2021, 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
Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset):		
Current Measurement Date	0.05527400%	0.05355300%
Prior Measurement Date	0.05801600%	0.05570000%
Change in Proportionate Share	-0.00274200%	-0.00214700%
Proportionate Share of the Net		
OPEB Liability (Asset)	\$ 1,046,110	\$ (1,129,121)

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.

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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, 2021, are presented below:

Inflation	2.40 percent
Salary Increases, including inflation	3.25 percent to 13.58 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent net of investment expense, including inflation
Municipal Bond Index Rate	
Measurement Date	1.92 percent
Prior Measurement Date	2.45 percent
Single Equivalent Interest Rate	
Measurement Date	2.27 percent, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation
Prior Measurement Date	2.63 percent, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation
Health Care Cost Trend Rate	
Pre-Medicare	6.750 percent - 4.40 percent
Medicare	5.125 percent - 4.40 percent

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

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

The long-term 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 log-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.

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

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

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
Cash	2.00 %	(0.33) %
US Equity	24.75	5.72
Non-US Equity Developed	13.50	6.55
Non-US Equity Emerging	6.75	8.54
Fixed Income/Global Bonds	19.00	1.14
Private Equity	11.00	10.03
Real Estate/Real Assets	16.00	5.41
Multi-Asset Strategies	4.00	3.47
Private Debt/Private Credit	3.00	5.28
Total	<u>100.00 %</u>	

Discount Rate The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability at June 30, 2021, was 2.27 percent. The discount rate used to measure total OPEB liability prior to June 30, 2021 was 2.63 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions will be made from members and the plan at the contribution rate of 1.50 percent of projected covered payroll each year, which includes a 1.50 percent payroll surcharge and no contributions from the basic benefits plan. Based on these assumptions, the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position was projected to become insufficient to make all projected future benefit payments of current System members by SERS actuaries. The Municipal Bond Index Rate is used in the determination of the SEIR for both the June 30, 2020 and the June 30, 2021 total OPEB liability. The Municipal Bond Index rate is the single rate that will generate a present value of benefit payments equal to the sum of the present value determined by the long-term expected rate of return, and the present value determined by discounting those benefits after the date of depletion. The Municipal Bond Index Rate is 1.92 percent at June 30, 2021 and 2.45 percent at June 30, 2020.

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 and what the net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (1.27 percent) and higher (3.27 percent) than the current discount rate (2.27 percent). Also shown is what the net OPEB liability would be based on health care cost trend rates that are one percentage point lower (6.00 percent decreasing to 3.75 percent) and higher (8.00 percent decreasing to 5.75 percent) than the current rate (7.00 percent decreasing to 4.75 percent).

Northwestern Local School District
Wayne County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
School District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	\$ 1,296,252	\$ 1,046,110	\$ 846,271

	1% Decrease	Current Trend Rate	1% Increase
School District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	\$ 805,416	\$ 1,046,110	\$ 1,367,594

Actuarial Assumptions – STRS

Key methods and assumptions used in the latest actuarial valuation, reflecting experience study results used in the June 30, 2021, actuarial valuation are presented below:

Inflation	2.50 percent	
Projected Salary Increases	12.50 percent at age 20 to 2.50 percent at age 65	
Payroll Increases	3.00 percent	
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation	
Discount Rate of Return	7.00 percent	
Health Care Cost Trend Rates		
Medical	<u>Initial</u>	<u>Ultimate</u>
Pre-Medicare	5.00 percent	4.00 percent
Medicare	-16.18 percent	4.00 percent
Prescription Drug		
Pre-Medicare	6.50 percent	4.00 percent
Medicare	29.98 percent	4.00 percent

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

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

The actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2021 valuation were adopted by the board from the results of an actuarial experience study for July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2016.

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:

Northwestern Local School District
Wayne County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Rate of Return*
Domestic Equity	28.00 %	7.35 %
International Equity	23.00	7.55
Alternatives	17.00	7.09
Fixed Income	21.00	3.00
Real Estate	10.00	6.00
Liquidity Reserves	1.00	2.25
Total	100.00 %	

*Ten year annualized geometric nominal returns, which include the real rate of return and inflation of 2.25 percent and does not include investment expenses. Over a 30-year period, STRS' investment consultant indicates that the above target allocations should generate a return above the actuarial rate of return, without net value added by management.

Discount Rate The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability was 7.00 percent as of June 30, 2021. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed STRS continues to allocate no employer contributions to the health care fund. Based on those assumptions, the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on health care plan investments of 7.00 percent was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total OPEB liability as of June 30, 2021.

Sensitivity of the School District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Asset to Changes in the Discount Rate and Health Care Cost Trend Rate The following table represents the net OPEB asset as of June 30, 2021, 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 of June 30, 2021, calculated using health care cost trend rates that are one percentage point lower and one percentage point higher than the current health care cost trend rates.

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
School District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset)	\$ (952,804)	\$ (1,129,121)	\$ (1,276,408)
		Current Trend Rate	1% Increase
School District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset)	\$ (1,270,440)	\$ (1,129,121)	\$ (954,367)

Assumption Changes Since the Prior Measurement Date The discount rate was adjusted to 7.00 percent from 7.45 percent for the June 30, 2021 valuation.

Northwestern Local School District
Wayne County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022

Benefit Term Changes Since the Prior Measurement Date The non-Medicare subsidy percentage was increased effective January 1, 2022 from 2.055 percent to 2.100 percent. The non-Medicare frozen subsidy base premium was increased effective January 1, 2022. The Medicare Part D subsidy was updated to reflect it is expected to be negative in calendar year 2022. The Part B monthly reimbursement elimination date was postponed indefinitely.

NOTE 8 - CONTINGENCIES

A. 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 is 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, 2022, if applicable, cannot be determined at this time.

B. Litigation

The School District is not party to any claims or lawsuits that would, in the School District's opinion, have a material effect of the basic financial statements.

C. School District Funding

School District foundation funding is based on the annualized full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment of each student. The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) 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.

NOTE 9 - SET ASIDE REQUIREMENTS

The School 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 year-end or offset by similarly restricted resources received during the year must be held in cash at year-end and carried forward to be used for the same purposes in future years. In prior years, the School District was also required to set aside money for budget stabilization. At June 30, 2022, only the unspent portion of certain workers' compensation refunds continues to be set aside.

The following cash basis information describes the change in the fiscal year end set aside amounts for budget stabilization and capital acquisition. Disclosure of this information is required by State statute.

Northwestern Local School District
Wayne County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022

	Budget Stabilization Reserve	Capital Improvement Reserve
Balance, June 30, 2021	\$ 173,531	\$ -
Current Year Set-Aside Requirement	-	227,211
Current Year Offset	-	(764,448)
Total	\$ 173,531	\$ (537,237)
Balance Carried Forward to Fiscal Year 2023	\$ 173,531	\$ -
Set-Aside Balance June 30, 2022	\$ 173,531	\$ -

Although the School District had offsets during the fiscal year that reduced the set-aside amount below zero for the capital acquisition set-aside, this amount may not be used to reduce the set-aside requirement for future years.

NOTE 10 – ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMPLIANCE

A. Accountability

Fund balances at June 30, 2022 included the following individual fund deficits:

Non Major Special Revenue Funds:

IDEA	\$ 23,059
COVID Relief	250,836
Improving Teacher Quality	13,515
Miscellaneous Federal Grants	3,149
Total	\$ 290,559

B. Compliance

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

Northwestern Local School District
Wayne County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022

NOTE 11 - SIGNIFICANT COMMITMENTS

Encumbrance Commitments

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

Fund	Amount
General	\$ 129,262
Other Governmental	390,884
Total	\$ 520,146

NOTE 12 - BUDGETARY BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

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

- a. In order to determine compliance with Ohio law, and to reserve that portion of the applicable appropriation, total outstanding encumbrances (budget basis) are recorded as the equivalent of a disbursement; and,
- b. Some funds are included in the general fund (cash basis), but have separate legally adopted budgets (budget basis).

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

Net Change in Fund Balance	
	General Fund
Cash Basis	\$ 2,278,789
Funds budgeted elsewhere**	66,049
Adjustment for encumbrances	(127,626)
Budget Basis	\$ 2,217,212

**As part of Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 54, *Fund Balance Reporting*, certain funds that are legally budgeted in separate special revenue funds are considered part of the general fund on the cash basis. This includes the unclaimed funds, rotary and public school support funds.

NOTE 13 – Interfund Activity

Interfund Advances

Interfund advances consisted of the following at June 30, 2022:

Northwestern Local School District
Wayne County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022

	Advances In	Advances Out
General Fund	\$ 4,468	\$ 4,649
Special Revenue Funds:		
Athletic Fund	4,649	4,468
	\$ 9,117	\$ 9,117

The primary purpose of the interfund balances is to cover costs in specific funds where revenues were not received by June 30. The interfund advances in to the general fund during the fiscal year were to repay the prior fiscal year outstanding balance.

NOTE 14 - 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 governmental funds.

The constraints placed on fund balance for the major governmental funds and all other governmental funds are presented below:

	General	Permanent Improvement	Other Governmental	Total Governmental
Restricted for:				
Permanent Improvements	\$ -	\$ 755,160	\$ -	\$ 755,160
Classroom Facilities Maintenance	-	-	66,025	66,025
Debt Retirement	-	-	77,303	77,303
Food Service Operations	-	-	378,922	378,922
Extracurricular Activities	-	-	97,232	97,232
Technology Improvement	-	-	12,819	12,819
Other Purposes	-	-	318,961	318,961
Total Restricted	-	755,160	951,262	1,706,422
Assigned for:				
Other Purposes	11,055	-	-	11,055
Instruction	73,741	-	-	73,741
Support Services	49,898	-	-	49,898
Extracurricular Activities	5,623	-	-	5,623
Subsequent Years Appropriations	-	-	-	-
Total Assigned	140,317	-	-	140,317
Unassigned	7,029,340	-	(290,559) *	6,738,781
Total Fund Balances	\$ 7,169,657	\$ 755,160	\$ 660,703	\$ 8,585,520

*Unassigned fund balance is due to deficit fund balances discussed in Note 10.

Northwestern Local School District
Wayne County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022

NOTE 15 – COVID-19

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ohio's state of emergency ended in June of 2021 while the national state of emergency ended in May of 2022. During fiscal year 2022, the School District received COVID-19 funding. The financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing recovery measures will impact subsequent periods of the School District. The impact on the School District's future operating costs, revenues, and additional recovery from funding, either federal or state, cannot be estimated.

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**NORTHWESTERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
WAYNE COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022**

FEDERAL GRANTOR <i>Pass Through Grantor</i> Program / Cluster Title	Federal AL Number	Total Federal Expenditures
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE <i>Passed Through Ohio Department of Education</i>		
Child Nutrition Cluster:		
Non-Cash Assistance (Food Distribution)		
National School Lunch Program	10.555	\$ 43,240
Cash Assistance:		
School Breakfast Program	10.553	163,656
National School Lunch Program	10.555	416,760
COVID-19 - National School Lunch Program	10.555	29,386
Total Child Nutrition Cluster		<u>653,042</u>
COVID-19 - Pandemic EBT Administrative Costs	10.649	<u>614</u>
Total U.S. Department of Agriculture		<u>653,656</u>
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION <i>Passed Through Ohio Department of Education</i>		
COVID-19 - Education Stabilization Fund		
COVID-19 - Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER II) Fund	84.425D	750,777
COVID-19 - Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) Fund	84.425U	203,413
COVID-19 - American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief – Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY)	84.425U	5,685
Total COVID-19 Education Stabilization Fund		<u>959,875</u>
Special Education Cluster:		
Special Education - Grants to State	84.027A	297,608
COVID-19 American Rescue Plan IDEA Part B	84.027X	54,680
Special Education - Preschool Grants	84.173A	7,380
Total Special Education Cluster		<u>359,668</u>
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010A	255,801
Supporting Effective Instruction	84.367A	47,446
English Language Acquisition State Grants	84.365A	1,022
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program	84.424A	<u>19,369</u>
Total U.S. Department of Education		<u>1,643,181</u>
Total Expenditures of Federal Awards		<u>\$2,296,837</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

**NORTHWESTERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
WAYNE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
2 CFR 200.510(b)(6)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022**

NOTE A – BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (the Schedule) includes the federal award activity of Northwestern Local School District (the School District) under programs of the federal government for the year ended June 30, 2022. The information on this Schedule is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Because the Schedule presents only a selected portion of the operations of the School District, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position and changes in net position of the School District.

NOTE B – 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 C – INDIRECT COST RATE

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

NOTE D - CHILD NUTRITION CLUSTER

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

NOTE E – FOOD DONATION PROGRAM

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

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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

Northwestern Local School District
Wayne County
7571 N. Elyria Road
West Salem, OH 44287

To the Board of Education:

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*), the cash-basis financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Northwestern Local School District, Wayne County, (the School District) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2022, 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 November 14, 2023, wherein we noted the School District uses a special purpose framework other than generally accepted accounting principles. We also noted the financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures which may impact subsequent periods of the School District.

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 purposes of expressing our opinions 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. We consider the deficiency described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2022-003 to be a material weakness.

A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or combinations of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance. We consider the deficiency described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2022-002 to be a significant deficiency.

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 an instance of noncompliance that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2022-001.

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 and corrective action plan. The School District's responses were not subjective to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

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
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

November 14, 2023

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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

Northwestern Local School District
Wayne County
7571 N. Elyria Road
West Salem, OH 44287

To the Board of Education:

Report on Compliance for the Major Federal Program

Opinion on the Major Federal Program

We have audited Northwestern Local School District's (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 Northwestern Local School District's major federal program for the year ended June 30, 2022. Northwestern Local School District's major federal program is identified in the *Summary of Auditor's Results* section of the accompanying schedule of findings.

In our opinion, Northwestern Local School District complied, in all material respects with the compliance requirements referred to above that could directly and materially affect its major federal program for the year ended June 30, 2022.

Basis for Opinion on the Major Federal Program

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

We are required to be independent of the 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 the 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 Districts compliance with the requirements of the major federal program as a whole.

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

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the 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.

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

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

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



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

November 14, 2023

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**NORTHWESTERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
WAYNE COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
2 CFR § 200.515
JUNE 30, 2022**

1. SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS

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

**NORTHWESTERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
WAYNE COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
2 CFR § 200.515
JUNE 30, 2022 (Continued)**

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

FINDING NUMBER 2022-001

Noncompliance – Annual Financial Report

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

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

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

Pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 the School District may be fined and subject to various other administrative remedies for its failure to file the required financial report. Failure to report on a GAAP basis compromises the School 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: See Corrective Action Plan

FINDING NUMBER 2022-002

Significant Deficiency – Cash Reconciliation Process Errors

Sound accounting practices require that when designing the public office's system of internal control and the specific control activities, management should ensure adequate security of assets and records, and verify the existence and valuation of assets and liabilities and periodically reconcile them to the accounting records. In addition, strong monitoring practices of the District's financial activities are the responsibility of management and the Board of Education and are essential to ensure proper financial reporting.

The reconciliation of cash (bank) balances to accounting system records (book) to the accounting system is the most basic and primary control process performed. Lack of completing an accurate and timely reconciliation may allow for accounting errors, theft and fraud to occur without timely detection.

The District Treasurer is responsible for reconciling the book (fund) balance to the total bank balance on a monthly basis, and the Board and other administrators are responsible for reviewing the reconciliations and related support.

**NORTHWESTERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
WAYNE COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
2 CFR § 200.515
JUNE 30, 2022 (Continued)**

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

FINDING NUMBER 2022-002 (Continued)

Significant Deficiency – Cash Reconciliation Process Errors (Continued)

At fiscal year-end the district maintained a large unreconciled balance on the reconciliation. During the audit unposted receipts were identified as part of the unreconciled balance, with the total unreconciled balance of \$31,958 remaining. In addition, the Board of Education did not appropriately review and inquire as to the reconciliation variances. Failure to accurately reconcile monthly increases the possibility that the District will not be able to identify, assemble, analyze, classify, and record its transactions correctly or to document compliance with finance related legal and contractual requirements. Further, the lack of accurate monthly reconciliations increases the risk of theft/fraud over the cash cycle and could lead to inaccurate reporting in the annual financial statements.

The District Treasurer should record all transactions and prepare monthly bank to book cash reconciliations, which include all bank accounts and all fund balances. Variances should be investigated, documented and corrected. In addition, the Board should review the monthly cash reconciliations including the related support (such as reconciling items) and document the reviews.

Officials' Response: See Corrective Action Plan

FINDING NUMBER 2022-003

Material Weakness – Financial Reporting

In our audit engagement letter, as required by AU-C Section 210, Terms of Engagement, paragraph .06, management acknowledged its responsibility for the preparation and fair presentation of their financial statements; this responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to preparing and fairly presenting financial statements free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error as discussed in AU-C Section 210 paragraphs A14 & A16.

The School District's internal control procedures were not sufficient to help ensure activity is properly recorded in the financial statements. As a result, we identified the following material misstatements:

- The School District reported an Internal Service Fund in their financial statements. However, the School District is not self-insured for employee dental benefits and should not have reported a separate Internal Service Fund. As a result, Internal Service Fund Assets/Net Position, Receipts, Disbursements and Beginning Net Position were overstated \$19,175, \$146,343, \$154,002, and \$26,834, respectively, and General Fund Assets/Fund Balance, Receipts, Disbursements and Beginning Fund Balance were understated \$19,175, \$264, \$7,923, and \$26,834, respectively.
- The School District omitted posting \$101,868 of Intergovernmental Revenues in the Food Service Fund, resulting in the Other Governmental Funds and Government Activities Assets, Receipts and Fund Balance/Net Position to be understated.

These adjustments were posted to the School District's financial statements and accounting system.

We further identified a misstatement of \$148,661 that did not require adjustment to the financial statements that we have brought to management's attention.

By not ensuring proper financial statement presentation, the School District cannot report accurate financial activity to its constituents.

**NORTHWESTERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
WAYNE COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
2 CFR § 200.515
JUNE 30, 2022 (Continued)**

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

FINDING NUMBER 2022-003 (Continued)

Material Weakness – Financial Reporting (Continued)

The School District should establish internal controls or enhance existing controls to help ensure the completeness and accuracy of information recorded in their accounting records and reported within the financial statements. This will help improve accuracy of the School District's financial reporting.

Officials' Response: See Corrective Action Plan

3. FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS

None.

Northwestern Local School District

7571 North Elyria Road
 West Salem, Ohio 44287-9707
 Superintendent - (419) 846-3151 x.1
 Treasurer - (419) 846-3400 x.3

Jeffrey N. Layton, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Julie H. McCumber
Director of Curriculum & Personnel

Cathie L. Franks
*Executive Secretary
 EMIS Coordinator*

Jamie L. Imhoff
*Transportation Administrative
 Secretary*



Pride & Tradition

Jerry K. Buccilla
Treasurer / Chief Financial Officer

Sherri L. Hamilton
*Assistant to Treasurer
 Payroll*

Mary E. Workman
*Assistant to Treasurer
 Accounts Payable*

SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS 2 CFR 200.511(b) JUNE 30, 2022

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Status	Additional Information
2021-001	ORC 117.38 and OAC 117-2-03(b) – Filing GAAP Financial Statements (First issued in 2002)	Not Corrected	The District filed their financial statements on an OCBOA Basis. See finding 2022-001 and Corrective Action Plan.

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CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN 2 CFR § 200.511(c) JUNE 30, 2022

Finding Number:	2022-001
Planned Corrective Action:	The District does not intend to report in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). Management believes the cost savings far outweighs reporting on GAAP.
Anticipated Completion Date:	N/A
Responsible Contact Person:	Jerry Buccilla, Treasurer
Finding Number:	2022-002
Planned Corrective Action:	The District will reconcile the book to fund balance on a monthly basis. The monthly cash reconciliation will be provided to the Board as part of the monthly financial statements. Reconciling variances will be investigated, documented and corrected.
Anticipated Completion Date:	N/A
Responsible Contact Person:	Jerry Buccilla, Treasurer
Finding Number:	2022-003
Planned Corrective Action:	The District will make appropriate financial statement adjustments to remove the Internal Service Fund. The District will ensure that all receipts are posted in a timely manner and verified as such through its monthly bank reconciliation process.
Anticipated Completion Date:	N/A
Responsible Contact Person:	Jerry Buccilla, Treasurer

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



NORTHWESTERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

WAYNE 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 1/2/2024

88 East Broad 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