



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



**WESTERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PIKE COUNTY
JUNE 30, 2023**

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PIKE COUNTY
JUNE 30, 2023**

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Western Local School District
Pike County
7959 State Route 124
Latham, Ohio 45646

To the Board of Education:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Western Local School District, Pike County, Ohio (School District), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, 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 financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Western Local School District, Pike County, Ohio as of June 30, 2023, and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof and the respective budgetary comparison for the General, Title I and ESSER funds for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

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

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

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

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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

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

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

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

Required Supplementary Information

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

Supplementary information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the School District's basic financial statements. The Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards as required by Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements.

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

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 25, 2024, 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
March 25, 2024

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Western Local School District
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023
Unaudited

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

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Key financial highlights for the fiscal year 2023 are as follows:

- Net position of governmental activities increased \$81,817.
- General revenues accounted for \$11,323,086 in revenue or 68% of all revenues. Program specific revenues in the form of charges for services and sales, grants, and contributions, accounted for \$5,261,424 or 32 % of total revenues of \$16,584,510.
- The School District had \$16,502,693 in expenses related to governmental activities; only \$5,261,424 of these expenses was offset by program specific charges for services and sales, grants, and contributions while the remainder of these expenses was partially offset by general revenues.

USING THIS ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

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

The Statement of Net Position and Statement of Activities provide information about the activities of the whole School District, presenting both an aggregate view of the School District's finances and a longer-term view of those finances. 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.

Reporting the School District as a Whole

Statement of Net Position and Statement of Activities

While this document contains information about the large number of funds used by the School District to provide programs and activities for students, 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 2023?" The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities answer this question. These statements include all assets, liabilities and deferred outflows/inflows of resources using the accrual basis of accounting similar to the accounting used by most private-sector companies. This basis of accounting takes into account all of the current year's revenues and expenses regardless of when cash is received or paid.

Western Local School District
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023
Unaudited

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 restricting revenue growth, facility conditions, required educational programs, and other factors.

In the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities, all of the School District's programs and services are reported as governmental activities including instruction, support services, operation of non-instructional services, and extracurricular activities.

Reporting the School District's Most Significant Funds

Fund Financial Statements

The analysis of the School District's major funds begins on page 10. Fund financial statements provide detailed information about the School District's major funds. The School District uses many funds to account for a multitude of 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, the ESSER Special Revenue Fund and the Title I Special Revenue 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 fiscal year-end available for spending in future periods. These funds are reported using an accounting method called modified accrual accounting, which measures cash and all other financial assets that can readily be converted to cash. The governmental fund statements provide a detailed short-term view of the School District's general governmental operations and the basic services it provides. Governmental fund information helps you determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance educational programs. The relationship (or differences) between governmental activities (reported in the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities) and governmental funds is reconciled in the financial statements.

Proprietary Funds. Proprietary Fund reporting focuses on the determination of operating revenues over (under) operating expenses and changes in net position. Proprietary funds are classified as enterprise or internal service and the School District only has an internal service fund which is used to account for their self-insurance program for employee dental claims.

Fiduciary Funds. Fiduciary fund reporting focuses on net position and changes in net position. The fiduciary fund category is split into four classifications: pension trust funds, investment trust funds, private purpose trust funds, and custodial funds. Trust funds are used to account for assets held by the School District under a trust agreement for individuals, private organizations, or other governments and are therefore not available to support the School District's own programs. Custodial funds are used to maintain financial activity of the School District's fiduciary activities that are not required to be reported in a trust fund. In accordance with GASB 34, fiduciary funds are not included in the government-wide statements. The School District's custodial fund accounts for State athletic tournament games, for which the School District acts as fiscal agent.

Western Local School District
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023
Unaudited

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AS A WHOLE

Recall that the Statement of Net Position provides the perspective of the School District as a whole. Table 1 provides a summary of the School District's net position for 2023 compared to 2022.

Table 1
 Net Position
 Governmental Activities

	2023	2022
Assets:		
Current and Other Assets	\$ 11,263,108	\$ 10,425,254
Noncurrent Assets	10,804,388	10,871,622
Total Assets	22,067,496	21,296,876
Deferred Outflows of Resources:		
Pensions and OPEB	4,115,320	3,869,093
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	4,115,320	3,869,093
Liabilities:		
Current and Other Liabilities	1,324,530	1,391,724
Long-Term Liabilities:		
Due Within One Year	-	52,944
Due in More than One Year:		
Net Pension Liabilities	13,042,509	7,480,686
Net OPEB Liabilities	788,878	1,040,201
Other Amounts	1,362,000	971,227
Total Liabilities	16,517,917	10,936,782
Deferred Inflows of Resources		
Pensions and OPEB	2,906,821	7,471,397
Property Taxes not Levied to Finance the Current Year	1,155,473	1,237,002
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	4,062,294	8,708,399
Net Position:		
Net Investment in Capital Assets	9,150,685	9,427,154
Restricted	515,780	251,769
Unrestricted	(4,063,860)	(4,158,135)
Total Net Position	\$ 5,602,605	\$ 5,520,788

The net pension liability (NPL) is the largest single liability reported by the School District at June 30, 2023 and is reported pursuant to GASB Statement 68, "Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions—an Amendment of GASB Statement 27." The net OPEB liability is another significant liability reported by the School District at June 30, 2022 and is reported pursuant to GASB Statement 75, "Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions." For reasons discussed below, many end users of this financial statement will gain a clearer understanding of the School District's actual financial condition by adding deferred inflows related to pension and OPEB, the net pension liability and the net OPEB liability (asset) to the reported net position and subtracting deferred outflows related to pension and OPEB.

Western Local School District
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023
Unaudited

Governmental Accounting Standards Board standards are national and apply to all government financial reports prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Prior accounting for pensions (GASB 27) and postemployment benefits (GASB 45) focused on a funding approach. This approach limited pension and OPEB costs to contributions annually required by law, which may or may not be sufficient to fully fund each plan's *net pension liability* or *net OPEB liability*. GASB 68 and GASB 75 take an earnings approach to pension and OPEB accounting; however, the nature of Ohio's statewide pension/OPEB plans and state law governing those systems requires additional explanation in order to properly understand the information presented in these statements.

GASB 68 and GASB 75 require the net pension liability and the net OPEB liability (asset) to equal the School District's proportionate share of each plan's collective:

1. Present value of estimated future pension/OPEB benefits attributable to active and inactive employees' past service
- 2 Minus plan assets available to pay these benefits

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

The employee enters the employment exchange with the knowledge that the employer's promise is limited not by contract but by law. The employer enters the exchange also knowing that there is a specific, legal limit to its contribution to the retirement system. In Ohio, there is no legal means to enforce the unfunded liability of the pension/OPEB plan *as against the public employer*. State law operates to mitigate/lessen the moral obligation of the public employer to the employee, because all parties enter the employment exchange with notice as to the law. The retirement system is responsible for the administration of the pension and OPEB plans.

Most long-term liabilities have set repayment schedules or, in the case of compensated absences (i.e. sick and vacation leave), are satisfied through paid time-off or termination payments. There is no repayment schedule for the net pension liability or the net OPEB liability. As explained above, changes in benefits, contribution rates, and return on investments affect the balance of these liabilities, but are outside the control of the local government. In the event that contributions, investment returns, and other changes are insufficient to keep up with required payments, State statute does not assign/identify the responsible party for the unfunded portion. Due to the unique nature of how the net pension liability and the net OPEB liability are satisfied, these liabilities are separately identified within the long-term liability section of the statement of net position. If there is a net OPEB asset, it will be reported in the asset section of the statement of net position.

In accordance with GASB 68 and GASB 75, the School District's statements prepared on an accrual basis of accounting include an annual pension expense and an annual OPEB expense for their proportionate share of each plan's *change* in net pension liability and net OPEB liability (asset), respectively, not accounted for as deferred inflows/outflows.

Total net position of the School District as a whole increased \$81,817. The increase to current and other assets is primarily due to an increase in cash. Capital assets, net decreased due to current year depreciation expense and deletions, which were partially offset by current year additions. Deferred outflows of resources increased primarily to pension and OPEB activity. Current and other liabilities decreased primarily due to a decrease in accounts payable which was partially offset by an increase in accrued wages and benefits. Long-term liabilities increased primarily due to net pension liabilities slightly offset by a decrease in OPEB liability.

Western Local School District
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023
Unaudited

Table 2 shows the changes in net position for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2023 and 2022.

Table 2
Changes in Net Position

	Governmental Activities	
	2023	2022
Revenues		
Program Revenues		
Charges for Services and Sales	\$ 194,184	\$ 173,186
Operating Grants and Contributions	5,067,240	5,454,328
Total Program Revenues	5,261,424	5,627,514
General Revenues		
Property Taxes	1,419,348	1,650,654
Grants and Entitlements not Restricted to Specific Programs	9,568,300	8,699,464
Gifts and Donations not Restricted to Specific Programs	26,222	10,789
Investment Earnings	250,698	25,929
Proceeds from Sale of Capital Assets	7,175	131,329
Miscellaneous	51,343	30,209
Total General Revenues	11,323,086	10,548,374
Total Revenues	16,584,510	16,175,888
Program Expenses		
Instruction:		
Regular	6,492,129	5,510,028
Special	2,166,655	1,836,164
Other	365,152	604,982
Support Services:		
Pupil	890,173	787,141
Instructional Staff	811,580	462,944
Board of Education	17,602	14,878
Administration	1,471,239	1,120,546
Fiscal	416,476	370,228
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	1,221,735	1,596,604
Pupil Transportation	1,125,719	928,528
Central	341,787	275,813
Operation of Non-Instructional Services	716,540	626,604
Extracurricular Activities	392,131	358,678
Intergovernmental	64,243	65,952
Interest and Fiscal Charges	9,532	12,085
Total Expenses	16,502,693	14,571,175
Increase (Decrease) in Net Position	81,817	1,604,713
Net Position, Beginning of Year	5,520,788	3,916,075
Net Position, End of Year	\$ 5,602,605	\$ 5,520,788

Over the past several years, the School District has remained in good financial position. The expenses for the School District have increased from the prior year due primarily to pension and OPEB activity.

The increase in grants and entitlements not restricted to specific programs is due to an increase in foundation monies. Investment earnings revenues increased primarily due to change in interest rates during the current fiscal year.

Western Local School District
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023
Unaudited

The Statement of Activities shows the cost of program services and the charges for services and sales, grants, and contributions offsetting those services. Table 3 shows the total cost of services and the net cost of services. That is, it identifies the cost of those services supported by tax revenue and unrestricted state entitlements.

Table 3
Governmental Activities

	Total Cost of Services		Net Cost of Services	
	2023		2022	
Program Expenses				
Instruction:				
Regular	\$ 6,492,129	\$ 4,517,711	\$ 5,510,028	\$ 3,449,233
Special	2,166,655	1,106,331	1,836,164	456,870
Other	365,152	130,783	604,982	177,975
Support Services:				
Pupil	890,173	860,351	787,141	543,713
Instructional Staff	811,580	353,928	462,944	205,782
Board of Education	17,602	17,541	14,878	14,818
Administration	1,471,239	1,357,833	1,120,546	994,168
Fiscal	416,476	415,312	370,228	369,113
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	1,221,735	1,191,086	1,596,604	1,586,975
Pupil Transportation	1,125,719	826,811	928,528	896,450
Central	341,787	199,659	275,813	211,214
Operation of Non-Instructional Services	716,540	49,724	626,604	488,539
Extracurricular Activities	392,131	199,795	358,678	(440,490)
Intergovernmental	64,243	4,872	65,952	(22,784)
Interest and Fiscal Charges	9,532	9,532	12,085	12,085
Total	<u>\$ 16,502,693</u>	<u>\$ 11,241,269</u>	<u>\$ 14,571,175</u>	<u>\$ 8,943,661</u>

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT FUNDS

The School District's governmental funds are accounted for using the modified accrual basis of accounting. All governmental funds had total revenues and other financing sources of \$16,635,480 and expenditures and other financing uses of \$15,889,953.

The General Fund had an increase in fund balance of \$815,844. This increase is due to revenues exceeding expenditures for the current year. The General Fund had revenues and other financing sources in the amount of \$12,053,174 and expenditures and other financing uses of \$11,237,330. The ESSER Fund had a decrease in fund balance of \$171,741. The Title I Fund had a decrease in fund balance of \$96,989.

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. During the course of fiscal year 2023, the School District amended its General Fund budget. For the General Fund, final budgeted revenue was \$578,307, above original estimates of \$11,418,191. This increase was a result of increases in intergovernmental revenues. For the General Fund, final appropriations were \$247,854 above original estimates of \$11,972,527. This increase was due primarily to increases in regular instruction. The School District's ending unobligated General Fund balance was \$7,221,532.

Western Local School District
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023
Unaudited

CAPITAL ASSETS AND DEBT ADMINISTRATION

Capital Assets

At the end of fiscal year 2023, the School District had \$9,650,685 invested in land and land improvements, buildings and improvements, furniture and equipment, vehicles, library and textbooks, and infrastructure. For additional information on capital assets, see Note 8 to the basic financial statements. Table 4 shows fiscal year 2023 balances compared to 2022.

Table 4
 Capital Assets
 (Net of Depreciation)

	Governmental Activities	
	2023	2022
Land	\$ 364,219	\$ 364,219
Land Improvements	166,812	208,504
Buildings and Improvements	8,288,385	8,874,832
Furniture and Equipment	196,456	240,369
Vehicles	557,284	207,693
Library Books and Textbooks	5,058	7,082
Infrastructure	72,471	74,701
Totals	\$ 9,650,685	\$ 9,977,400

Changes in capital assets from the prior year resulted from additions, deletions, and depreciation.

Debt

At June 30, 2023, the School District had an energy conservation bond outstanding of \$500,000. The energy conservation bond was for energy conservation improvements. For additional information on debt, see Note 12 to the basic financial statements.

CONTACTING THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, taxpayers, and 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 Tyler Cooper, Treasurer at Western Local School District, 7959 State Route 124, Latham, Ohio 45646.

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Western Local School District
Statement of Net Position
June 30, 2023

	Governmental Activities
Assets	
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 8,150,409
Cash and Cash Equivalents with Escrow Agents	424,452
Intergovernmental Receivable	622,665
Property Taxes Receivable	2,065,582
Noncurrent Assets:	
Non-Depreciable Capital Assets	364,219
Depreciable Capital Assets, Net	9,286,466
Net OPEB Asset	1,153,703
	22,067,496
<i>Total Assets</i>	
Deferred Outflows of Resources	
Pension	3,638,466
OPEB	476,854
	4,115,320
<i>Total Deferred Outflows of Resources</i>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	51,234
Accrued Wages and Benefits Payable	1,038,382
Claims Payable	10,757
Intergovernmental Payable	224,157
Noncurrent Liabilities	
Long-Term Liabilities:	
Due In More Than One Year	
Net Pension Liability (See Note 9)	13,042,509
Net OPEB Liability (See Note 10)	788,878
Other Amounts Due in More Than One Year	1,362,000
	16,517,917
<i>Total Liabilities</i>	
Deferred Inflows of Resources	
Pensions	1,060,177
OPEB	1,846,644
Property Taxes not Levied to Finance Current Year Operations	1,155,473
	4,062,294
<i>Total Deferred Inflows of Resources</i>	
Net Position	
Net Investment in Capital Assets	9,150,685
Restricted for:	
Capital Projects	23,082
Debt Service	3,890
Other Purposes	488,808
Unrestricted (Deficit)	(4,063,860)
	\$ 5,602,605
<i>Total Net Position</i>	

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Western Local School District
Statement of Activities
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

	Program Revenues			Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Position
	Expenses	Charges for Services and Sales	Operating Grants and Contributions	
Governmental Activities				
Instruction:				
Regular	\$6,492,129	\$ 80,928	\$ 1,893,490	\$ (4,517,711)
Special	2,166,655	19,130	1,041,194	(1,106,331)
Other	365,152	8,515	225,854	(130,783)
Support Services:				
Pupil	890,173	3,401	26,421	(860,351)
Instructional Staff	811,580	17,305	440,347	(353,928)
Board of Education	17,602	61	-	(17,541)
Administration	1,471,239	7,723	105,683	(1,357,833)
Fiscal	416,476	1,164	-	(415,312)
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	1,221,735	4,228	26,421	(1,191,086)
Pupil Transportation	1,125,719	12,683	286,225	(826,811)
Central	341,787	5,621	136,507	(199,659)
Operation of Non-Instructional Services	716,540	23,909	642,907	(49,724)
Extracurricular Activities	392,131	7,390	184,946	(199,795)
Intergovernmental	64,243	2,126	57,245	(4,872)
Interest and Fiscal Charges	9,532	-	-	(9,532)
<i>Totals</i>	<u>\$ 16,502,693</u>	<u>\$ 194,184</u>	<u>\$ 5,067,240</u>	<u>(11,241,269)</u>
General Revenues				
Property Taxes Levied for:				
General Purposes				1,419,348
Grants and Entitlements not Restricted to Specific Programs				9,568,300
Gifts and Donations not Restricted to Specific Programs				26,222
Investment Earnings				250,698
Gain on the Sale of Capital Assets				7,175
Miscellaneous				51,343
<i>Total General Revenues</i>				<u>11,323,086</u>
<i>Change in Net Position</i>				81,817
<i>Net Position Beginning of Year</i>				<u>5,520,788</u>
<i>Net Position End of Year</i>				<u>\$ 5,602,605</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Western Local School District
Balance Sheet
Governmental Funds
June 30, 2023

	General	ESSER	Title I	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Assets					
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 7,500,146	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 527,050	\$ 8,027,196
Cash and Cash Equivalents with Escrow Agents	424,452	-	-	-	424,452
Receivables:					
Property Taxes	2,065,582	-	-	-	2,065,582
Interfund	218,417	-	-	-	218,417
Intergovernmental	23,816	399,629	160,544	38,676	622,665
<i>Total Assets</i>	<u>\$ 10,232,413</u>	<u>\$ 399,629</u>	<u>\$ 160,544</u>	<u>\$ 565,726</u>	<u>\$ 11,358,312</u>
Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Fund Balances					
Liabilities					
Accounts Payable	\$ 19,257	\$ -	\$ 18,843	\$ 13,134	\$ 51,234
Accrued Wages and Benefits Payable	703,574	237,807	55,506	41,495	1,038,382
Interfund Payable	-	118,472	73,875	26,070	218,417
Intergovernmental Payable	149,669	43,350	12,320	18,818	224,157
<i>Total Liabilities</i>	<u>872,500</u>	<u>399,629</u>	<u>160,544</u>	<u>99,517</u>	<u>1,532,190</u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources					
Property Taxes not Levied to Finance Current Year Operations	1,155,473	-	-	-	1,155,473
Unavailable Revenue - Delinquent Taxes	788,545	-	-	-	788,545
Unavailable Revenue - Grants	-	171,741	96,989	7,459	276,189
<i>Total Deferred Inflows of Resources</i>	<u>1,944,018</u>	<u>171,741</u>	<u>96,989</u>	<u>7,459</u>	<u>2,220,207</u>
Fund Balances					
Restricted	424,449	-	-	515,780	940,229
Assigned	979,808	-	-	-	979,808
Unassigned	6,011,638	(171,741)	(96,989)	(57,030)	5,685,878
<i>Total Fund Balances</i>	<u>7,415,895</u>	<u>(171,741)</u>	<u>(96,989)</u>	<u>458,750</u>	<u>7,605,915</u>
<i>Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Fund Balances</i>	<u>\$ 10,232,413</u>	<u>\$ 399,629</u>	<u>\$ 160,544</u>	<u>\$ 565,726</u>	<u>\$ 11,358,312</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Western Local School District
*Reconciliation of Total Governmental Fund Balances to
 Net Position of Governmental Activities
 June 30, 2023*

Total Governmental Fund Balances		\$ 7,605,915
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position are different because:		
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported in the funds.		9,650,685
Other long-term assets are not available to pay for current period expenditures and therefore are unavailable in the funds.		
Taxes	788,545	
Intergovernmental	276,189	
Total		1,064,734
The net pension/OPEB liability (asset) is not due and receivable/payable in the current period; therefore, the liability (asset) and related deferred inflows/outflows are not reported in the funds.		
Deferred outflows of resources related to pensions and OPEB	4,115,320	
Deferred inflows of resources related to pensions and OPEB	(2,906,821)	
Net OPEB Asset	1,153,703	
Net Pension Liability	(13,042,509)	
Net OPEB Liability	(788,878)	
Total		(11,469,185)
An internal service fund is used by management to charge the cost of insurance to individuals. The assets and liabilities of the internal service fund are included in governmental activities in the statement of net position.		
		112,456
Long-term liabilities, including bonds, leases, and the long-term portion of compensated absences, are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds.		
Compensated Absences	(862,000)	
Energy Conservation Bonds	(500,000)	
Total		(1,362,000)
Net Position of Governmental Activities		\$ 5,602,605

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Western Local School District
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances
Governmental Funds
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

	General	ESSER	Title I	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Revenues					
Taxes	\$ 1,460,161	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,460,161
Intergovernmental	10,247,835	2,165,515	561,150	1,385,179	14,359,679
Interest	250,698	-	-	-	250,698
Rent	8,616	-	-	-	8,616
Tuition and Fees	13,858	-	-	-	13,858
Extracurricular Activities	7,934	-	-	102,725	110,659
Gifts and Donations	10,461	-	-	15,761	26,222
Customer Sales and Services	225	-	-	60,826	61,051
Miscellaneous	46,211	-	-	5,132	51,343
<i>Total Revenues</i>	<u>12,045,999</u>	<u>2,165,515</u>	<u>561,150</u>	<u>1,569,623</u>	<u>16,342,287</u>
Expenditures					
Current:					
Instruction:					
Regular	3,502,016	2,008,781	50,329	-	5,561,126
Special	1,683,863	-	338,193	57,249	2,079,305
Other	126,697	-	111,440	123,158	361,295
Support Services:					
Pupil	845,727	3,517	7,840	18,978	876,062
Instructional Staff	318,238	178,020	137,321	61,873	695,452
Board of Education	17,816	-	-	-	17,816
Administration	1,256,394	-	10,856	91,308	1,358,558
Fiscal	416,913	-	-	-	416,913
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	1,173,945	8,143	-	22,347	1,204,435
Pupil Transportation	726,711	1,213	-	309,707	1,037,631
Central	189,024	132,859	-	8,100	329,983
Operation of Non-Instructional Services	15,268	4,723	2,160	689,391	711,542
Extracurricular Activities	183,786	-	-	202,174	385,960
Capital Outlay	435,136	-	-	8,700	443,836
Debt Service:					
Principal	50,246	-	-	-	50,246
Interest and Fiscal Charges	9,532	-	-	-	9,532
Intergovernmental	-	-	-	64,243	64,243
<i>Total Expenditures</i>	<u>10,951,312</u>	<u>2,337,256</u>	<u>658,139</u>	<u>1,657,228</u>	<u>15,603,935</u>
<i>Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures</i>	<u>1,094,687</u>	<u>(171,741)</u>	<u>(96,989)</u>	<u>(87,605)</u>	<u>738,352</u>
Other Financing Sources (Uses)					
Proceeds from Sale of Capital Assets	7,175	-	-	-	7,175
Operating Transfers In	-	-	-	286,018	286,018
Operating Transfers Out	(286,018)	-	-	-	(286,018)
<i>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</i>	<u>(278,843)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>286,018</u>	<u>7,175</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Balances</i>	815,844	(171,741)	(96,989)	198,413	745,527
<i>Fund Balances at Beginning of Year</i>	6,600,051	-	-	260,337	6,860,388
<i>Fund Balances at End of Year</i>	<u>\$ 7,415,895</u>	<u>\$ (171,741)</u>	<u>\$ (96,989)</u>	<u>\$ 458,750</u>	<u>\$ 7,605,915</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Western Local School District
*Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes
in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

Net Change in Fund Balances - Total Governmental Funds		\$745,527
<p>Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities are different because:</p>		
<p>Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives as depreciation expense. This is the amount by which depreciation exceeded capital asset additions in the current period.</p>		
Capital Asset Additions	435,136	
Current Year Depreciation	<u>(761,851)</u>	
Total		(326,715)
<p>Revenues in the statement of activities that do not provide current financial resources are not reported as revenues in the funds.</p>		
Taxes	(40,813)	
Intergovernmental	<u>275,861</u>	
Total		235,048
<p>Repayments of bond and lease principal are expenditures in the governmental funds, but the repayment reduces liabilities in the statement of net position and does not result in an expense in the statement of activities.</p>		
		50,246
<p>Contractually required contributions are reported as expenditures in governmental funds; however, the statement of activities reports these amounts as deferred outflows.</p>		
		1,175,818
<p>Except for amounts reported as deferred inflows/outflows, changes in the net pension/OPEB liability (asset) are reported as pension expense in the statement of activities.</p>		
		(1,416,034)
<p>The internal service fund used by management to charge the costs of insurance to individual funds is not reported in the government-wide statement of activities. Governmental fund expenditures and the related internal service fund revenues are eliminated. The net revenue (expense) of the internal service fund is allocated among the governmental activities.</p>		
		6,002
<p>Some expenses reported in the statement of activities do not require the use of current financial resources and therefore are not reported as expenditures in governmental funds.</p>		
Increase in Compensated Absences	<u>(388,075)</u>	
Total		<u>(388,075)</u>
Net Change in Net Position of Governmental Activities		<u><u>\$81,817</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Western Local School District
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes
In Fund Balance - Budget and Actual
(Budgetary Basis)
General Fund
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with Final Budget: Positive (Negative)
	Original Budget	Final Budget		
Total Revenues and Other Sources	\$ 11,418,191	\$ 11,996,498	\$ 11,996,498	\$ -
Total Expenditures and Other Uses	<u>11,972,527</u>	<u>12,220,381</u>	<u>11,953,044</u>	<u>267,337</u>
Net Change in Fund Balance	(554,336)	(223,883)	43,454	267,337
Fund Balance, July 1, 2022	6,554,713	6,554,713	6,554,713	-
Prior Year Encumbrances Appropriated	<u>623,365</u>	<u>623,365</u>	<u>623,365</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund Balance, June 30, 2023	<u>\$ 6,623,742</u>	<u>\$ 6,954,195</u>	<u>\$ 7,221,532</u>	<u>\$ 267,337</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Western Local School District
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes
In Fund Balance - Budget and Actual
(Budgetary Basis)
ESSER Fund
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance with Final Budget: Positive (Negative)</u>
	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Final Budget</u>		
Total Revenues and Other Sources	\$ 3,882,326	\$ 2,354,850	\$ 2,221,799	\$ (133,051)
Total Expenditures and Other Uses	<u>3,669,559</u>	<u>2,286,353</u>	<u>2,286,354</u>	<u>(1)</u>
Net Change in Fund Balance	212,767	68,497	(64,555)	(133,052)
Fund Balance, July 1, 2022	(68,497)	(68,497)	(68,497)	-
Prior Year Encumbrances Appropriated	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund Balance, June 30, 2023	<u>\$ 144,270</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (133,052)</u>	<u>\$ (133,052)</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Western Local School District
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes
In Fund Balance - Budget and Actual
(Budgetary Basis)
Title I Fund
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance with Final Budget: Positive (Negative)</u>
	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Final Budget</u>		
Total Revenues and Other Sources	\$ 726,810	\$ 881,222	\$ 643,191	\$ (238,031)
Total Expenditures and Other Uses	<u>642,900</u>	<u>661,145</u>	<u>661,146</u>	<u>(1)</u>
Net Change in Fund Balance	83,910	220,077	(17,955)	(238,032)
Fund Balance, July 1, 2022	(87,895)	(87,895)	(87,895)	-
Prior Year Encumbrances Appropriated	<u>3,984</u>	<u>3,984</u>	<u>3,984</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund Balance, June 30, 2023	<u>\$ (1)</u>	<u>\$ 136,166</u>	<u>\$ (101,866)</u>	<u>\$ (238,032)</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Western Local School District
Statement of Net Position
Governmental Activities - Internal Service Fund
June 30, 2023

Assets

Current Assets:

Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>\$ 123,213</u>
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<i>Total Assets</i>	<u>123,213</u>
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Liabilities

Current Liabilities:

Claims Payable	<u>10,757</u>
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<i>Total Liabilities</i>	<u>10,757</u>
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Net Position

Unrestricted	<u><u>\$ 112,456</u></u>
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See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Western Local School District
*Statement of Revenues, Expenses and
Changes In Net Position*
Governmental Activities - Internal Service Fund
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Operating Revenues	
Charges for Services	<u>\$ 112,276</u>
<i>Total Operating Revenues</i>	<u>112,276</u>
Operating Expenses	
Claims Expense	<u>106,274</u>
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	<u>106,274</u>
Net Change in Net Position	6,002
Net Position at Beginning of Year	<u>106,454</u>
Net Position at End of Year	<u><u>\$ 112,456</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Western Local School District
Statement of Cash Flows
Governmental Activities - Internal Service Fund
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash Flows from Operating Activities:

Cash Received from Transaction with Other Funds	\$ 112,276
Cash Payments for Claims	<u>(107,029)</u>

<i>Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities</i>	5,247
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Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Year	<u>117,966</u>
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Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year	<u><u>\$ 123,213</u></u>
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***Reconciliation of Operating Income to Net Cash
Provided by Operating Activities***

Operating Income	\$ 6,002
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Changes in Liabilities:

Decrease in Claims Payable	<u>(755)</u>
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<i>Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities</i>	<u><u>\$ 5,247</u></u>
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See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Western Local School District
Statement of Fiduciary Net Position
Fiduciary Funds
June 30, 2023

	<u>Custodial Fund</u>
ASSETS:	
Equity in Pooled Cash and Investments	\$ 250
NET POSITION:	
Restricted for Other Purposes	<u>\$ 250</u>
<i>Total Net Position</i>	<u><u>\$ 250</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Western Local School District
Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position
Fiduciary Fund
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

	<u>Custodial Fund</u>
ADDITIONS:	
Miscellaneous	<u>\$ -</u>
<i>Total Additions</i>	<u>-</u>
Change in Net Position	-
<i>Net Position Beginning of Year</i>	<u>250</u>
<i>Net Position End of Year</i>	<u><u>\$ 250</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Western Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 1 - DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND REPORTING ENTITY

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

The School District was established in 1934 through the consolidation of existing land areas and school districts. The School District serves an area of approximately 87 square miles. It is located in Pike County and includes Benton, Mifflin, Pebble, Perry, and Sunfish Townships. It is staffed by 50 non-certificated employees and 81 certificated full-time teaching personnel who provide services to 791 students and other community members.

Reporting Entity:

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

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

The following entities which perform activities within the School District's boundaries for the benefit of its residents are excluded from the accompanying financial statements because the School District is not financially accountable for these entities nor are they fiscally dependent on the School District.

Village of Latham
Parent Teacher Organization
Ross - Pike County Educational Service District

The School District is associated with four organizations, three of which are defined as jointly governed organizations, and one as an insurance purchasing pool. These organizations are the Metropolitan Educational Technology Association (META), the Pike County Joint Vocational School District, the Coalition of Rural and Appalachian Schools, and the Ohio School Boards Association Workers' Compensation Group Rating Plan. These organizations are presented in Notes 13 and 14 to the basic financial statements.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The basic financial statements of the Western Local School District have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The more significant of the School District's accounting policies are described below.

Western Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

A. Basis of Presentation

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

Government-wide Financial Statements:

The statement of net position and the statement of activities display information about the School District as a whole. These statements include the financial activities of the primary government, except for fiduciary funds. The activities of the internal service fund are eliminated to avoid "doubling up" revenues and expenses.

The statement of net position presents the financial condition of governmental activities of the School District at year-end. The statement of activities presents a comparison between direct expenses and program revenues for each program or function of the School District's governmental activities. Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with a service, program or department and therefore clearly identifiable to a particular function. Program revenues include charges paid by the recipient of the goods or services offered by the program and grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. Revenues which are not classified as program revenues are presented as general revenues of the School District. The comparison of direct expenses with program revenues identifies the extent to which each governmental function is self-financing or draws from the general revenues of the School District.

Fund Financial Statements:

During the 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 fund financial statements is on major funds rather than reporting funds by type. Each major fund is presented in a separate column. Non-major funds are aggregated and presented in a single column. Fiduciary funds are reported by fund type.

B. 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 used by this School District can be classified using three categories, governmental, proprietary, and fiduciary.

Governmental Funds

Governmental funds are those through which most governmental functions typically are financed. Governmental fund reporting focuses on the sources, uses and balances of current financial resources. Expendable assets are assigned to the various governmental funds according to the purpose for which they may or must be used. Current liabilities are assigned to the fund from which they will be paid. The difference between governmental fund assets and liabilities plus deferred inflows of resources is reported as fund balance. The following are the School District's major governmental funds:

General Fund

The General Fund is the general operating fund of the School District and is used to account for all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund. The General Fund is available to the School District for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to the school laws of Ohio.

Western Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

ESSER Fund

The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund is a special revenue fund of the School District and is used to account for grant monies received from the federal government for emergency relief.

Title I Fund

The Title I Fund is a special revenue fund of the School District and is used to account for grant monies received from the federal government.

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

Proprietary Funds

Proprietary fund reporting focuses on the determination of operating income, changes in net position, financial position, and cash flows. Proprietary funds are classified as enterprise or internal service; the Western Local School District has no Enterprise Funds.

Internal Service Fund

The internal service fund accounts for the financing of services provided by one department or agency to other departments or agencies of the Western Local School District on a cost reimbursement basis. The School District's only internal service fund accounts for the self-insurance program for employee dental claims.

Fiduciary Funds

Fiduciary fund reporting focuses on net position and changes in net position. The fiduciary fund category is split into four classifications: pension trust funds, investment trust funds, private purpose trust funds, and custodial funds. Trust funds are used to account for assets held by the School District under a trust agreement for individuals, private organizations, or other governments and are therefore not available to support the School District's own programs. Custodial funds are used to maintain financial activity of the School District's fiduciary activities that are not required to be reported in a trust fund. In accordance with GASB 34, fiduciary funds are not included in the government-wide statements. The School District's custodial fund accounts for State athletic tournament games, for which the School District acts as fiscal agent.

Measurement Focus

Government-wide Financial Statements - The government-wide financial statements are prepared using the economic resources measurement focus. All assets, deferred outflows and inflows of resources, and all liabilities associated with the operation of the School District are included on the statement of net position. The statement of activities presents increases (i.e. revenues) and decreases (i.e. expenses) in total net position.

Fund Financial Statements - All governmental funds are accounted for using a flow of current financial resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, only current assets, current liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources generally are included on the balance sheet. The statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balances reports on the sources (i.e., revenues and other financing sources) and uses (i.e., expenditures and other financing uses) of current financial resources. This approach differs from the manner in which the governmental activities of the government-wide financial statements are prepared. Governmental fund financial statements therefore include a reconciliation with brief explanations to better identify the relationship between the government-wide statements and the statements for governmental funds.

Western Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Like the government-wide statements, all proprietary fund types are accounted for on a flow of economic resources measurement focus. All assets and all liabilities associated with the operation of these funds are included on the statement of net position. The statement of revenues, expenses and changes in net position presents increases (i.e. revenues) and decreases (i.e. expenses) in total net position. The statement of cash flows provides information about how the School District finances and meets the cash flow needs of the proprietary activity.

Basis of Accounting

Basis of accounting determines when transactions are recorded in the financial records and reported on the financial statements. Government-wide financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. The fund financial statements are prepared using either the modified accrual basis of accounting for governmental funds or the accrual basis of accounting for proprietary and fiduciary funds. Differences in the accrual and modified accrual basis of accounting arise in the recognition of revenue, the recording of unavailable revenue, the presentation of expenses versus expenditures, the recording of deferred outflows/inflows related to net pension/OPEB liabilities (assets), and the recording of net pension/OPEB liabilities (assets).

Revenues-Exchange and Non-exchange Transactions

Revenue resulting from exchange transactions, in which each party gives and receives essentially equal value, is recorded on the accrual basis when the exchange takes place. On a modified accrual basis, revenue is recorded in the fiscal year in which the resources are measurable and become available. Measurable means the amount of the transaction can be determined. Available means that the resources will be collected within the current fiscal year or are expected to be collected soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current fiscal year. For the School District, available means expected to be received within sixty days of fiscal year end.

Non-exchange transactions, in which the School District receives value without directly giving equal value in return, include property taxes, grants, entitlements and donations. Revenue from property taxes is recognized in the fiscal year for which taxes are levied. (See Note 5) Revenue from grants, entitlements, and donations is recognized in the fiscal year in which all eligibility requirements have been satisfied. Eligibility requirements include timing requirements, which specify the year when the resources are required to be used or the fiscal year when use is first permitted, matching requirements, in which the School District must provide local resources to be used for a specified purpose, and expenditure requirements, in which the resources are provided to the School District on a reimbursement basis. On a modified accrual basis, revenue from non-exchange transactions must also be available before it can be recognized.

Under the modified accrual basis, the following revenue sources are considered to be both measurable and available at fiscal year end: property taxes available as an advance, interest, tuition, grants, student fee and rentals.

Deferred Outflows and Deferred Inflows of Resources

Deferred outflows of resources represent a consumption of net position that applies to a future period and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expenditures/expenses) until then. The School District reports a deferred outflow of resources for pensions and other postemployment benefits. The deferred outflows of resources related to the pensions and other postemployment benefits are explained in Notes 9 and 10. The School District also reports a deferred inflow of resources which represents an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period and will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenues) until that time. For the School District these amounts consist of taxes and intergovernmental receivables which are not collected in the available period, pensions, and other postemployment benefits. The difference between deferred inflows on the Statement of Net Position and the Balance Sheet is partially due to delinquent property taxes and grants not received during the available period. These were reported as revenues on the Statement of Activities and not recorded as deferred inflows on the Statement of Net Position. Deferred inflows of resources related to pensions and other postemployment benefits are only reported on the Statement of Net Position. (See Notes 9 and 10)

Western Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Expenses/Expenditures

On the accrual basis of accounting, expenses are recognized at the time they are incurred. The measurement focus of governmental fund accounting is on decreases in net financial resources (expenditures) rather than expenses. Expenditures are generally recognized in the accounting period in which the related fund liability is incurred, if measurable, except for (1) principal and interest on general long-term debt, which is recorded when due, and (2) the costs of accumulated unpaid vacation, personal leave and sick leave are reported as fund liabilities as payments come due each period upon the occurrence of employee resignations and retirements. Allocations of cost, such as depreciation and amortization, are not recognized in governmental funds.

C. Budgetary Process

All funds, other than the custodial fund, are legally required to be budgeted and appropriated. The major documents prepared are the tax budget, the appropriation resolution, and the certificate of estimated resources, which are prepared on the budgetary basis of accounting. The tax budget demonstrates a need for existing or increased tax rates. The certificate of estimated resources establishes a limit on the amounts that the Board of Education may appropriate. The appropriation resolution is the Board's authorization to spend resources and set annual limits on expenditures plus encumbrances at a level of control selected by the Board. The legal level of control has been established by the Board of Education at the fund level. The Treasurer maintains budgetary information at the fund and object level and has the authority to allocate appropriations at the function and object level without resolution by the Board.

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

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

D. Cash and Cash Equivalents

To improve cash management, all cash received by the School District is pooled. Monies for all funds, including proprietary funds, are maintained in this pool. Individual fund integrity is maintained through School District records. Each fund's interest in the pool is presented as "Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents" on the basic financial statements. The School District holds money in an escrow account to be used for payment of the energy conservation bonds for the remodeling project. The School District also holds money in an escrow account to hold unexpended proceeds from a lease for an energy conservation project. These monies are presented as "Cash and Cash Equivalents with Escrow Agents" on the financial statements.

During fiscal year 2023, the School District's investments was limited to funds invested in the State Treasury Assets Reserve of Ohio (STAROhio). STAROhio is an investment pool managed by the State Treasurer's Office that allows governments within the State to pool their funds for investment purposes. STAROhio 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.

Western Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

For 2023, there were no limitations or restrictions on any participant withdrawals due to redemption notice periods, liquidity fees, or redemption gates. However, 24 hours advance notice is appreciated for deposits and withdrawals of \$25 million or more. STAR Ohio reserves the right to limit the transaction to \$100 million per day, requiring the excess amount to be transacted the following business day(s), but only to the \$100 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 revenue credited during fiscal year 2023 amounted to \$250,698 to the General Fund.

For purposes of the statement of cash flows and for presentation on the statement of net position and the balance sheet, investments of the cash management pool and investments with an original maturity of three months or less at the time they are purchased by the School District are considered to be cash equivalents.

E. Capital Assets and Depreciation

All capital assets of the School District are general capital assets that are associated with governmental activities. General capital assets result from expenditures in the governmental funds. These assets are reported in the governmental activities column of the government-wide statement of net position but are not reported in the fund financial statements.

All capital assets are capitalized at cost (or estimated historical cost) and updated for additions and retirements during the year. Donated capital assets are recorded at their acquisition values as of the date received. The School District maintains a capitalization threshold of \$2,000.

Improvements are capitalized; the costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend an asset's life are not. All reported capital assets except land are depreciated. Depreciable capital assets are depreciated using the straight-line method over an estimated useful life of 50 years for buildings, 20 years for land improvements, 20 to 30 years for building improvements, 7 to 20 years for furniture and equipment, 8 years for vehicles, 6 to 15 years for library books and textbooks and 50 years for infrastructure which consists of a sewer plant and sewer lines.

F. Interfund Activity

Exchange transactions between funds are reported as revenues in the seller funds and as expenditures/expenses in the purchaser funds. Flows of cash or goods from one fund to another without a requirement for repayment are reported as interfund transfers. Interfund transfers are reported as other financing sources/uses in governmental funds. Repayments from funds responsible for particular expenditures/expenses to the funds that initially paid for them are not presented on the financial statements. Interfund transfers between governmental activities are eliminated in the statement of activities.

G. Compensated Absences

Vacation benefits are accrued as a liability as the benefits are earned if the employees' rights to receive compensation are attributable to services already rendered and it is probable that the School District will compensate the employees for the benefits through paid time off or some other means. Sick leave benefits are accrued as a liability using the vesting method. The liability includes the employees who are currently eligible to receive termination benefits and those the School District has identified as probable of receiving payment in the future. The amount is based on accumulated sick leave and employees' wage rates at fiscal year end, taking into consideration any limits specified in the School District's termination policy.

The School District records a liability for accumulated unused vacation time when earned for all employees with more than one year of service. The School District records a liability for accumulated unused sick leave for all employees after 15 years of current service with the School District.

The entire compensated absence liability is reported on the government-wide financial statements.

Western Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

On the governmental fund financial statements, compensated absences are recognized as liabilities and expenditures as payments come due each period upon the occurrence of employee resignations and retirements. These amounts are recorded in the account “matured compensated absences payable” in the fund from which the employee will be paid.

H. Accrued Liabilities and Long-Term Obligations

All payables, accrued liabilities and long-term obligations are reported in the government-wide financial statements.

In general, governmental fund payables and accrued liabilities, that, once incurred, are paid in a timely manner and in full from current financial resources, are reported as obligations of the funds. However, claims and judgments and special termination benefits that will be paid from governmental funds are reported as a liability in the fund financial statements only to the extent that they are due for payment in the current year. Bonds are recognized as a liability on the government-wide financial statements when due.

I. Fund Balance

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

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

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

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

Assigned Amounts in the assigned fund balance classification are intended to be used by the School District for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed. In governmental funds other than the General Fund, assigned fund balance represents the remaining amount that is not restricted or committed. In the General Fund, assigned amounts represent intended uses established by policies of the School District Board of Education.

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

J. Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

Western Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

K. Net Position

Net position represents the difference between assets, liabilities and deferred inflows/outflows of resources. Net investment in capital assets consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, reduced by the outstanding balances of any borrowings used for the acquisition, construction or improvement of those assets. Net position are reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through the enabling legislation adopted by the School District or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, or laws or regulations of other governments. Net position restricted for other purposes include activities for food service operations and federal and state grants restricted to expenditures for specified purposes.

The School District applies restricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position is available.

Of the School District's \$515,780 in restricted net position, none is restricted by enabling legislation.

L. Interfund Balances

On the fund financial statements, receivables and payables resulting from short-term interfund loans are classified as "Interfund Receivables" and "Interfund Payables." These amounts are eliminated in the governmental activities column of the statement of net position.

M. Operating Revenues and Expenses

Operating revenues are those revenues that are generated directly from the primary activity of the proprietary funds. For the School District, these revenues are charges for services to the various funds to cover the costs of the self insurance program. Operating expenses are necessary costs incurred to provide the goods and/or services that are the primary activities of the fund.

N. Pensions and Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)

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

O. Prepaid Items

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

NOTE 3 - BUDGETARY BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

While the School District is reporting financial position, results of operations, and changes in fund balances on the basis of accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP), the budgetary basis as provided by law is based upon accounting for certain transactions on a basis of cash receipts, disbursements and encumbrances. The Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance - Budget and Actual (Budgetary Basis) presented for the General Fund and the major Special Revenue Funds are presented on the budgetary basis to provide a meaningful comparison of actual results with the budget.

Western Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 3 - BUDGETARY BASIS OF ACCOUNTING (Continued)

The major differences between the budget basis and GAAP (modified accrual) basis are as follows:

1. Revenues are recorded when received in cash (budget basis) as opposed to when susceptible to accrual (GAAP basis).
2. Expenditures are recorded when paid in cash (budget basis) as opposed to when the liability is incurred (GAAP basis).
3. Encumbrances are treated as expenditures (budget basis) rather than as a restriction, commitment, or assignment of fund balance for governmental fund types (GAAP basis).
4. Funds treated as General Fund equivalents on the GAAP basis are not included on the budget basis.

The following table summarizes the adjustments necessary to reconcile the GAAP and budgetary basis statements for the General Fund and major Special Revenue Funds:

	Net Change in Fund Balances		
	General Fund	ESSER Fund	Title I Fund
GAAP Basis	\$ 815,844	\$ (171,741)	\$ (57,627)
Revenue Accruals	(47,107)	56,284	42,679
Expenditure Accruals	35,508	65,483	24,986
Perspective Difference:			
Activity of Funds Reclassified for GAAP Reporting Purposes	1,758	-	-
Encumbrances	(762,549)	(14,581)	(27,993)
Budget Basis	<u>\$ 43,454</u>	<u>\$ (64,555)</u>	<u>\$ (17,955)</u>

NOTE 4 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

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

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

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

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

Interim monies may 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;

Western Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 4 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS (Continued)

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

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

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

Deposits: Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of bank failure, the School District will not be able to recover deposits or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. At year end, \$2,301,289 of the School District's bank balance of \$2,551,289 was exposed to custodial credit risk because those deposits were uninsured and collateralized. Although all statutory requirements for the deposit of money had been followed, noncompliance with Federal requirements could potentially subject the School District to a successful claim by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

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

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

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

Western Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 4 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS (Continued)

Investments: The School District had the following investments at June 30, 2023:

	Fair Value	Weighted Average Maturity (Yrs.)
STAR Ohio	\$6,284,898	0

The School District categorizes its fair value measurements within the fair value hierarchy established by generally accepted accounting principles. The hierarchy is based on the valuation inputs used to measure the fair value of the asset. Level 1 inputs are quoted prices in active markets for identical assets. Level 2 inputs are significant other observable inputs; Level 3 inputs are significant unobservable inputs. The above chart identifies the School District’s recurring fair value measurements as of June 30, 2023. The School District’s investment measured at fair value is valued using quoted market prices (Level 1 inputs).

Interest rate risk – Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. The School District does not have an investment policy which addresses interest rate risk. The School District manages its exposure to declines in fair values by limiting its investments to STAR Ohio.

Credit Risk – Credit risk is the risk that an issuer or other counterparty to an investment will not fulfill its obligations. The School District limits their investments to STAR Ohio. Investments in STAR Ohio were rated AAAM by Standard & Poor’s.

Concentration of credit risk – Concentration of credit risk is the risk of loss attributed to the magnitude of a government’s investment in a single issuer. The School District does have an investment policy which allows only investments in STAR Ohio and Certificates of Deposit. The School District has invested 100 percent in STAR Ohio.

Custodial credit risk - Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the School District will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. All of the School District’s securities are either insured and registered in the name of the School District or at least registered in the name of the School District.

NOTE 5 - PROPERTY TAXES

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

Property taxes include amounts levied against all real, public utility and tangible personal property (used in business) located in the School District. Real property tax revenue received in calendar year 2023 represents collections of calendar year 2022 taxes. Real property taxes received in calendar year 2022 were levied after April 1, 2022, on the assessed value listed as of January 1, 2022, the lien date. Assessed values for real property taxes are established by State law at thirty-five percent of appraised market value. Real property taxes are payable annually or semi-annually. If paid annually, payment is due December 31; if paid semi-annually, the first payment is due December 31 with the remainder payable by June 20. Under certain circumstances, State statute permits alternate payment dates to be established.

Public utility property tax revenue received in calendar year 2023 represents collections of calendar year 2022 taxes. Public utility real and tangible personal property taxes received in calendar year 2023 became a lien on December 31, 2021. were levied after April 1, 2022, and are collected in 2023 with real property taxes. Public utility real property is assessed at thirty-five percent of true value; public utility tangible personal property currently is assessed at varying percentages of true value.

Western Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 5 - PROPERTY TAXES (Continued)

The assessed values upon which fiscal year 2023 taxes were collected are:

	2022 Second- Half Collections		2023 First- Half Collections	
	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent
Agricultural/Residential and Other Real Estate	\$59,660,480	83.60%	\$59,675,960	83%
Public Utility	11,677,550	16.40%	11,957,200	17%
Total Assessed Value	<u>\$71,338,030</u>	<u>100.00%</u>	<u>\$71,633,160</u>	<u>100.00%</u>
Tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed valuation	\$30.00		\$30.00	

The School District receives property taxes from Pike County. The County Auditor periodically advances to the School District its portion of the taxes collected. Second-half real property tax payments collected by the County by June 30, 2023, 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.

Accrued property taxes receivable represents delinquent taxes outstanding and real property, tangible personal property, and public utility taxes which became measurable as of June 30, 2023 and for which there is an enforceable claim. Although total property tax collections for the next fiscal year are measurable, only the amount available as an advance at June 30 is intended to finance current fiscal year operations. The receivable is therefore offset by a credit to a unavailable revenue for that portion not intended to finance current year operations. The amount available as an advance is recognized as revenue. The amount available as an advance at June 30, 2023, was \$121,564 in the General Fund.

NOTE 6 - RECEIVABLES

Receivables at June 30, 2023, consisted of property taxes, interfund, and intergovernmental grants. All receivables are considered collectible in full due to the ability to foreclose for the nonpayment of taxes, the stable condition of State programs, and the current fiscal year guarantee of federal funds. A summary of the principal items of intergovernmental receivables follows:

	<u>Amount</u>
Major Funds:	
General Fund	\$23,816
ESSER	399,629
Title I	160,544
Non-major Special Revenue Funds:	
Title VI-B	22,716
21 st Century	1,249
School Improvement	556
Improving Teacher Quality	8,545
Early Literacy	329
Drug Free Grant	<u>5,281</u>
Total Non-major Special Revenue Funds	<u>38,676</u>
Total Governmental Activities	<u>\$622,665</u>

Western Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 7 - RISK MANAGEMENT

The School District is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. During fiscal year 2023, the School District contracted with the Ohio School Plan for fleet insurance, liability insurance, and inland marine coverage. Lorbach Insurance Agency provides public official bonds. Total coverage amounted to \$42,866,127 with a \$1,000 deductible.

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

For fiscal year 2023, the School District participated in the Ohio School Boards Association Workers' Compensation Group Rating Plan (GRP), an insurance purchasing pool (Note 14). The intent of the GRP is to achieve the benefit of a reduced premium for the School District by virtue of its grouping and representation with other participants in the GRP. The workers' compensation experience of the participating school districts is calculated as one experience and a common premium rate is applied to all school districts in the GRP. Each participant pays its workers' compensation premium to the State based on the rate for the GRP rather than its individual rate. Total savings are then calculated and each participant's individual performance is compared to the overall savings percentage of the GRP. A participant will then either receive money from or be required to contribute to the "Equity Pooling Fund". This "equity pooling" arrangement ensures that each participant shares equally in the overall performance of the GRP. Participation in the GRP is limited to school districts that can meet the GRP's selection criteria. The firm of CompManagement, Inc. provides administrative, cost control and actuarial services to the GRP.

Dental insurance is offered to employees through a self-insurance internal service fund. Coresource is the School District's third party administrator who informs the School District of claim payments needed each week. Coresource provides an actuarial study each year and advises the School District as to any change needed in premium payments to the internal service fund. The claims liability of \$10,757 reported in the internal service fund at June 30, 2023 is based on an estimate provided by Coresource and the requirements of GASB Statement No. 10, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Risk Financing and Related Insurance Issues*, which requires that a liability for unpaid claim costs, including estimates of costs relating to incurred but not reported claims, be reported. The estimate was not affected by incremental claims adjustments expenses and does not include other allocated or unallocated claim adjustment expenses.

Changes in claims activity for the past two fiscal years are as follows:

	Balance at Beginning of Year	Current Year Claims	Claims Payments	Balance at End of Year
2022	\$11,068	\$92,296	\$91,852	\$11,512
2023	11,512	106,274	107,029	10,757

Western Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 8 - CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital assets activity for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, was as follows:

	Ending Balance 6/30/22	Additions	Deletions	Ending Balance 6/30/23
Governmental Activities				
Capital Assets, Not Being Depreciated				
Land	\$364,219	-	-	\$364,219
Total Capital Assets, Not Being Depreciated	<u>364,219</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>364,219</u>
Capital Assets Being Depreciated				
Land Improvements	2,024,788	7,925	-	2,032,713
Buildings and Improvements	21,836,030	-	-	21,836,030
Furniture and Equipment	1,114,825	-	-	1,114,825
Vehicles	1,354,742	427,211	(131,822)	1,650,131
Library Books and Textbooks	419,468	-	-	419,468
Infrastructure	111,496	-	-	111,496
Total Capital Assets, Being Depreciated	<u>26,861,349</u>	<u>435,136</u>	<u>(131,822)</u>	<u>27,164,663</u>
Less Accumulated Depreciation:				
Land Improvements	(1,816,284)	(49,617)	-	(1,865,901)
Buildings and Improvements	(12,961,198)	(586,447)	-	(13,547,645)
Furniture and Equipment	(874,456)	(43,913)	-	(918,369)
Vehicles	(1,147,049)	(77,620)	131,822	(1,092,847)
Library Books and Textbooks	(412,386)	(2,024)	-	(414,410)
Infrastructure	(36,795)	(2,230)	-	(39,025)
Total Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(17,248,168)</u>	<u>(761,851)</u>	<u>131,822</u>	<u>(17,878,197)</u>
Total Capital Assets Being Depreciated, Net	<u>9,613,181</u>	<u>(326,715)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,286,466</u>
Governmental Activities Capital Assets, Net	<u>\$9,977,400</u>	<u>(326,715)</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$9,650,685</u>

Depreciation expense was charged to government functions as follows:

Instruction:	
Regular	\$628,255
Special	660
Support Services:	
Instructional Staff	260
Administration	868
Fiscal	1,788
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	33,218
Pupil Transportation	85,272
Central	1,184
Operations of Non-Instructional Services	4,831
Extracurricular Activities	5,515
Total Depreciation Expense	<u>\$761,851</u>

NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS

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

Net Pension Liability/Net OPEB Liability (Asset)

Pensions and OPEB are a component of exchange transactions—between an employer and its employees—of salaries and benefits for employee services. Pensions and 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 obligation to sacrifice resources for pensions and OPEB are a present obligation because it was created as a result of employment exchanges that already have occurred.

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 and OPEB plan’s fiduciary net position. The net pension/OPEB liability (asset) calculation is dependent on critical long-term variables, including estimated average life expectancies, earnings on investments, cost of living adjustments and others. While these estimates use the best information available, unknowable future events require adjusting this estimate annually.

The 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 are financed; however, the School District does receive the benefit of employees’ services in exchange for compensation including pension and OPEB.

GASB Statements No. 68/75 assume 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). The retirement systems may allocate a portion of the employer contributions to provide for the OPEB benefits. In addition, health care plan enrollees pay a portion of the health care costs in the form of a monthly premium. State statute requires the pension plans to amortize unfunded liabilities within 30 years. If the pension amortization period exceeds 30 years, each retirement system’s board must propose corrective action to the State legislature. Any resulting legislative change to benefits or funding could significantly affect the net pension/OPEB liability (asset). Resulting adjustments to the net pension/OPEB liability (asset) would be effective when the changes are legally enforceable. The Ohio Revised Code permits, but does not require the retirement systems to provide healthcare to eligible benefit recipients.

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

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

Plan Description – School District non-teaching employees participate in SERS, a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by SERS. SERS provides retirement, disability and survivor benefits, 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.

Western Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (Continued)

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

Age and service requirements for retirement are as follows:

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

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

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

An individual whose benefit effective date is before April 1, 2018, is eligible for a cost of living adjustment (COLA) on the first anniversary date of the benefit. New benefit recipients must wait until the fourth anniversary of their benefit for COLA eligibility. The COLA is added each year to the base benefit amount on the anniversary date of the benefit. The COLA is indexed to the percentage increase in the CPI-W, not to exceed 2.5 percent and with a floor of 0 percent. A three-year COLA suspension was in effect for all benefit recipients for the years 2018, 2019, and 2020. In 2022, the Retirement Board approved a 0.5 percent COLA for eligible retirees and beneficiaries in 2023.

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, 2023, 14.0% was designated to pension, death benefits, and Medicare B. There was no amount allocated to the Health Care Fund for fiscal year 2023.

The School District’s contractually required contribution to SERS was \$270,573 for fiscal year 2023. Of this amount \$18,600 is reported as an intergovernmental payable.

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.

NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (Continued)

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

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 Aug. 1, 2015, the calculation is 2.2% of final average salary for the five highest years of earnings multiplied by all years of service. Eligibility changes will be phased in until Aug. 1, 2023, when retirement eligibility for unreduced benefits will be five years of service credit and age 65, or 35 years of service credit at any age.

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

The DC Plan allows members to place all of their member contributions and 9.53% of the 14% employer contributions into an investment account. The member determines how to allocate the member and employer money among various investment choices offered by STRS Ohio. The remaining 4.47% of the 14% employer rate is allocated to the defined benefit unfunded liability. A member is eligible to receive a retirement benefit at age 50 and termination of employment. The member may elect to receive a lifetime monthly annuity or a lump sum withdrawal.

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

The Combined Plan offers features of both the DB Plan and the DC Plan. In the Combined Plan, 12 percent of the 14 percent member rate goes to the DC Plan and the remaining 2 percent goes 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 after termination of employment at age 50 or later.

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. Eligible survivors of members who die before service retirement may qualify for monthly benefits. New members on or after July 1, 2013, must have at least 10 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. If a member of the DC Plan dies before retirement benefits begin, the member's designated beneficiary is entitled to receive the member's account balance.

Funding Policy – Employer and member contribution rates are established by the Retirement Board and limited by Chapter 3307 of the Ohio Revised Code. The statutory employer rate is 14% and the statutory member rate is 14% 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 fiscal year 2023 contribution rates were equal to the statutory maximum rates.

The School District's contractually required contribution to STRS Ohio was \$884,808 for fiscal year 2023. Of this amount \$126,204 is reported as an intergovernmental payable.

Western Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (Continued)

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

The net pension liability disclosed as current year below was measured as of June 30, 2022, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The School District's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the School District's share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating entities. Following is information related to the proportionate share:

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability - Current Year	0.0580105%	0.044555980%	
Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability - Prior Year	<u>0.0557749%</u>	<u>0.042411987%</u>	
Change in Proportionate Share Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	<u>0.0022356%</u>	<u>0.002143993%</u>	
Pension Expense (Gain)	\$3,137,659	\$9,904,850	\$13,042,509
	\$268,377	\$1,351,952	\$1,620,329

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

Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Differences between expected and actual economic experience	\$127,078	\$126,795	\$253,873
Difference from a change in proportion and differences between School District contributions and proportionate share of contributions	85,931	582,342	668,273
Changes of assumptions	30,959	1,185,313	1,216,272
Differences between projected and actual investment earnings	-	344,667	344,667
School District contributions subsequent to the measurement date	<u>270,573</u>	<u>884,808</u>	<u>1,155,381</u>
Total	<u>\$514,541</u>	<u>\$3,123,925</u>	<u>\$3,638,466</u>
 Deferred Inflows of Resources			
Differences between expected and actual economic experience	\$20,598	\$37,889	\$58,487
Differences between projected and actual investment earnings	109,490	0	109,490
Changes of assumptions	-	892,200	892,200
Total	<u>\$130,088</u>	<u>\$930,089</u>	<u>\$1,060,177</u>

\$1,155,381 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pension resulting from School District contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ending June 30, 2024.

Western Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (Continued)

Net Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions (Continued)

	SERS	STRS	Total
Fiscal Year Ending June 30:			
2024	\$72,248	\$271,059	\$343,307
2025	16,086	149,950	166,036
2026	(156,410)	(116,493)	(272,903)
2027	181,956	1,004,512	1,186,468
Total	\$113,880	\$1,309,028	\$1,422,908

Actuarial Assumptions - SERS

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

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

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

Key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total pension liability in the latest actuarial valuation, prepared as of June 30, 2022, compared with June 30, 2021, are presented below:

	June 30, 2022	June 30, 2021
Inflation	2.4 percent	2.4 percent
Future Salary Increases, including inflation COLA or Ad Hoc COLA	3.25 percent to 13.58 percent 2.0 percent, on or after April 1, 2018, COLAs for future retirees will be delayed for three years following commencement	3.25 percent to 13.58 percent 2.0 percent, on or after April 1, 2018, COLAs for future retirees will be delayed for three years following commencement
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent net of system expenses	7.00 percent net of system expenses
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal (Level Percent of Payroll)	Entry Age Normal (Level Percent of Payroll)

Western Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (Continued)

Actuarial Assumptions - SERS (Continued)

Mortality rates for 2021 were based on the PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weight Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 94.20 percent for males and set forward 2 years and adjusted 81.35 percent for females. Mortality among disabled members were based upon the PUB-2010 General Disabled Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 5 years and adjusted 103.3 percent for males and set forward 3 years and adjusted 106.8 percent for females. Future improvement in mortality rates is reflected by applying the MP-2020 projection scale generationally.

Mortality rates for 2020 were based on the RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with fully generational projection and a five year age set-back for both males and females. Mortality among service retired members, and beneficiaries were based upon the RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with fully generational projection with Scale BB, 120 percent of male rates, and 110 percent of female rates. Mortality among disabled members were based upon the RP-2000 Disabled Mortality Table, 90 percent for male rates and 100 percent for female rates, set back five years is used for the period after disability retirement.

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

The long-term return expectation for the Pension Plan Investments has been determined by using a building-block approach and assumes a time horizon, as defined in the 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 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 %	-0.45%
US Equity	24.75	5.37
Non-US Equity Developed	13.50	6.22
Non-US Equity Emerging	6.75	8.22
Fixed Income/Global Bonds	19.00	1.20
Private Equity	11.00	10.05
Real Estate/Real Assets	16.00	4.87
Multi-Asset Strategy	4.00	3.39
Private Debt/Private Credit	<u>3.00</u>	5.38
Total	<u>100.00 %</u>	

Discount Rate The total pension liability for 2022 was calculated using the discount rate of 7.00 percent. The discount rate for 2021 was 7.0 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed the contributions from employers and from the members would be computed based on contribution requirements as stipulated by State statute. Projected inflows from investment earnings were calculated using the long-term assumed investment rate of return (7.00 percent). Based on those assumptions, the plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefits to determine the total pension liability.

Western Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (Continued)

Actuarial Assumptions - SERS (Continued)

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

	1% Decrease (6.00%)	Current Discount Rate (7.00%)	1% Increase (8.00%)
School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$4,618,484	\$3,137,659	\$1,890,084

Assumptions and Benefit Changes Since the Prior Measurement Date - There were no changes in assumptions or benefit terms since the prior measurement date.

Actuarial Assumptions - STRS

Key methods and assumptions used in the June 30, 2022, actuarial valuation compared to those used in the June 30, 2021, actuarial valuation are presented below:

	June 30, 2022	June 30, 2021
Inflation	2.50 %	2.50 %
Projected Salary Increases	Varies by service from 2.5 % to 8.50 %	12.50 % at age 20 to 2.50% at age 65
Payroll increases	3.00 %	3.00 %
COLA or Ad Hoc COLA	0.00 %	0.00 %
Discount rate of return	7.00 %	7.00 %
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent net of investment expenses, including inflation	7.00 percent net of investment expenses, including inflation
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal (Level Percent of Payroll)	Entry Age Normal (Level Percent of Payroll)

For the June 30, 2022 actuarial valuation, post-retirement mortality rates are based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table, adjusted 110% for males, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020. Pre-retirement mortality rates are based on Pub-2010 Teachers Employee Table adjusted 95% for females, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020. Post-retirement disabled mortality rates are based on Pub-2010 Teachers Disable Annuitant Table projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020.

For the June 30, 2021 actuarial valuations, post-retirement mortality rates for healthy retirees are based on the RP-2014 Annuitant Mortality Table with 50% of rates through age 69, 70% of rates between ages 70 and 79, 90% of rates between ages 80 and 84, and 100% of rates thereafter, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016. Pre-retirement mortality rates are based on RP-2014 Employee Mortality Table, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016. Post-retirement disabled mortality rates are based on the RP- 2014 Disabled Mortality Table with 90% of rates for males and 100% of rates for females, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016.

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

Western Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (Continued)

Actuarial Assumptions – STRS (Continued)

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

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

* Target allocation percentage is effective as of July 1, 2022.

Target weights were phased in over a 3-month period concluding on October 1, 2022.

**10-Year annualized geometric nominal returns, which include the real rate of return and inflation of 2.25% and is net of investment expenses. Over a 30-year period, STRS Ohio’s 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% as of June 30, 2022. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumes that member and employer contributions will be made at the statutory contribution rates in accordance with the rates described previously. 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 Ohio’s fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current plan members as of June 30, 2022. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments of 7.00% was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability as of June 30, 2022.

Sensitivity of the School District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate

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

	1% Decrease (6.00%)	Current Discount Rate (7.00%)	1% Increase (8.00%)
School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$14,962,623	\$9,904,850	\$5,627,541

Changes Between the Measurement Date and the Reporting date STRS approved a one-time 1.00% cost-of-living adjustment to eligible benefit recipients effective July 1, 2023. It is unknown what effect this change will have on the net pension liability.

NOTE 10 – DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS

Net Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB) Liability (Asset)

See Note 9 for a description of the net OPEB liability (asset). The District reports on the cash basis of accounting, so there is no net OPEB liability(asset) recorded in the accompanying financial statements.

School Employees Retirement System

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

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

Funding Policy - State statute permits SERS to fund the health care benefits through employer contributions. Each year, after the allocation for statutorily required pensions and benefits, the Retirement Board may allocate the remainder of the employer contribution of 14 percent of covered payroll to the Health Care Fund in accordance with the funding policy. For fiscal year 2023, no allocation of covered payroll was made to health care. An additional health care surcharge on employers is collected for employees earning less than an actuarially determined minimum compensation amount, pro-rated if less than a full year of service credit was earned. For fiscal year 2023, this amount was \$25,000. Statutes provide that no employer shall pay a health care surcharge greater than 2 percent of that employer's SERS-covered payroll; nor may SERS collect in aggregate more than 1.5 percent of the total statewide SERS-covered payroll for the health care surcharge. For fiscal year 2023, the School District's surcharge obligation was \$20,437.

The surcharge added to the allocated portion of the 14 percent employer contribution rate is the total amount assigned to the Health Care Fund. No portion of covered payroll was allocated to the Health Care Fund in 2023. The School District's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$20,437 for fiscal year 2023. Of this amount, \$20,437 is reported as an intergovernmental payable.

Western Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 10 – DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS (Continued)

State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio

Plan Description – The State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio (STRS) administers a cost-sharing Health Plan administered for eligible retirees who participated in the defined benefit or combined pension plans offered by STRS. Ohio law authorizes STRS to offer this plan. Benefits include hospitalization, physicians’ fees, prescription drugs and partial reimbursement of monthly Medicare Part B premiums. The Medicare Part B premium reimbursement elimination was postponed 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. All health care plan enrollees pay a portion of the health care costs in the form of a monthly premium. Under Ohio law, funding for post-employment health care may be deducted from employer contributions, currently 14 percent of covered payroll. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, STRS did not allocate any employer contributions to post-employment health care.

Net Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB) Liability (Asset), OPEB Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB Liability (Asset)

The net OPEB (asset) liability was measured as of June 30, 2022, and the total OPEB (asset) liability used to calculate the net OPEB (asset) liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The School District's proportion of the net OPEB (asset) liability was based on the 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 and OPEB expense (gain):

	SERS	STRS	Total
Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB (Asset) Liability - Current Year	0.0561875%	0.044555980%	
Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB (Asset) Liability - Prior Year	0.0549620%	0.042411987%	
Change in Proportionate Share	0.0012255%	0.002143993%	
Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability	\$788,878	\$0	\$788,878
Proportion of the Net OPEB (Asset)	\$0	(\$1,153,703)	(\$1,153,703)
OPEB Expense (Gain)	(\$37,080)	(\$167,215)	(\$204,295)

Western Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 10 – DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS (Continued)

Net Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB) Liability (Asset), OPEB Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB Liability (Asset) (Continued)

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

Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Differences between expected and actual economic experience	\$6,632	\$16,725	\$23,357
Difference from a change in proportion and differences between School District contributions and proportionate share of contributions	182,924	51,327	234,251
Changes of assumptions	125,481	49,144	174,625
Differences between projected and actual investment earnings	4,100	20,084	24,184
School District contributions subsequent to the measurement date	<u>20,437</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,437</u>
Total	<u><u>\$339,574</u></u>	<u><u>\$137,280</u></u>	<u><u>\$476,854</u></u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Differences between expected and actual economic experience	\$504,625	\$173,265	\$677,890
Changes of assumptions	323,840	818,086	1,141,926
Difference from a change in proportion and differences between School District contributions and proportionate share of contributions	<u>16,023</u>	<u>10,805</u>	<u>26,828</u>
Total	<u><u>\$844,488</u></u>	<u><u>\$1,002,156</u></u>	<u><u>\$1,846,644</u></u>

\$20,437 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB resulting from School District contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net OPEB liability (adjustment to net OPEB asset) in the year ending June 30, 2024. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in OPEB expense as follows:

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Fiscal Year Ending June 30:			
2024	(\$112,938)	(\$234,351)	(\$347,289)
2025	(111,615)	(248,705)	(360,320)
2026	(104,106)	(120,460)	(224,566)
2027	(66,001)	(52,804)	(118,805)
2028	(47,113)	(68,914)	(116,027)
Thereafter	<u>(83,578)</u>	<u>(139,642)</u>	<u>(223,220)</u>
Total	<u><u>(\$525,351)</u></u>	<u><u>(\$864,876)</u></u>	<u><u>(\$1,390,227)</u></u>

Western Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 10 – DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS (Continued)

Actuarial Assumptions - SERS

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

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

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

Key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total OPEB liability in the latest actuarial valuation are presented below:

	June 30, 2022	June 30, 2021
Inflation	2.4 percent	2.4 percent
Future Salary Increases, including inflation	3.25 percent to 13.58 percent	3.25 percent to 13.58 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent net of system expenses	7.00 percent net of system expenses
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal (Level Percent of Payroll)	Entry Age Normal (Level Percent of Payroll)
Municipal Bond Index Rate:	3.69 %	1.92 %
Single Equivalent Interest Rate, Net of Plan Investment Expense, Including		
Price Inflation	4.08 %	2.27 %
Medical Trend Assumption	7.00 to 4.40 %	
Medicare	5.125 to 4.400 %	5.125 to 4.400 %
Pre-Medicare	6.750 to 4.400 %	6.750 to 4.400 %

For 2022 and 2021, mortality rates among healthy retirees were based on the PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weighted Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 94.20 percent for males and set forward 2 years and adjusted 81.35 percent for females. Mortality among disabled members were based upon the PUB-2010 General Disabled Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 5 years and adjusted 103.3 percent for males and set forward 3 years and adjusted 106.8 percent for females. Mortality rates for contingent survivors were based on PUB-2010 General Amount Weighted Below Median Contingent Survivor mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 105.5 percent for males and adjusted 122.5 percent for females. Mortality rates for actives is based on PUB-2010 General Amount Weighted Below Median Employee mortality table.

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

Western Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 10 – DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS (Continued)

Actuarial Assumptions – SERS (Continued)

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

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

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

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

Western Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 10 – DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS (Continued)

Actuarial Assumptions – SERS (Continued)

Sensitivity of the School District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate and Changes in the Health Care Cost Trend Rates The net OPEB liability is sensitive to changes in the discount rate and the health care cost trend rate. The following table presents the net OPEB liability of SERS, what SERS' net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1 percentage point lower (3.08%) and higher (5.08%) than the current discount rate (4.08%).

	1% Decrease (3.08%)	Current Discount Rate (4.08%)	1% Increase (5.08%)
School District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$979,799	\$788,878	\$634,754

The following table presents the OPEB liability of SERS, what SERS' net OPEB liability would be based on health care cost trend rates that are 1 percentage point lower (6.00% decreasing to 3.40%) and higher (8.00% decreasing to 5.40%) than the current rate (7.00% decreasing to 4.40%).

	1% Decrease in Trend Rates	Current Trend Rate	1% Increase in Trend Rates
School District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$608,367	\$788,878	\$1,024,656

Actuarial Assumptions – STRS

Key methods and assumptions used in the June 30, 2022, actuarial valuation and the June 30, 2021 actuarial valuation are presented below:

	June 30, 2022		June 30, 2021	
Inflation	2.50 %		2.50 %	
Projected Salary Increases	Varies by service from 2.5 % to 8.50 %		12.50 % at age 20 to 2.50% at age 65	
Payroll increases	3.00 %		3.00 %	
Cost-of-living adjustments (COLA)	0.00 %		0.00 %	
Discount rate of return	7.00 %		7.00 %	
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent net of investment expenses, including inflation		7.00 percent net of investment expenses, including inflation	
Health care cost trends	Initial	Ultimate	Initial	Ultimate
Medical				
Pre-Medicare	7.50%	3.94%	5.00%	4.00%
Medicare	-68.78%	3.94%	-16.18%	4.00%
Prescription Drug				
Pre-Medicare	9.00%	3.94%	6.50%	4.00%
Medicare	-5.47%	3.94%	29.98%	4.00%

Western Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 10 – DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS (Continued)

Actuarial Assumptions – STRS (Continued)

For the June 30, 2022 actuarial valuation, post-retirement mortality rates are based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table, adjusted 110% for males, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020. Pre-retirement mortality rates are based on Pub-2010 Teachers Employee Table adjusted 95% for females, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020. Post-retirement disabled mortality rates are based on Pub-2010 Teachers Disable Annuitant Table projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020.

For the June 30, 2021 actuarial valuations, post-retirement mortality rates for healthy retirees are based on the RP-2014 Annuitant Mortality Table with 50% of rates through age 69, 70% of rates between ages 70 and 79, 90% of rates between ages 80 and 84, and 100% of rates thereafter, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016. Pre-retirement mortality rates are based on RP-2014 Employee Mortality Table, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016. Post-retirement disabled mortality rates are based on the RP- 2014 Disabled Mortality Table with 90% of rates for males and 100% of rates for females, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016.

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

Investment Return Assumptions —STRS Ohio’s 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	26.00 %	6.60 %
International Equity	22.00	6.80 %
Alternatives	19.00	7.38 %
Fixed Income	22.00	1.75 %
Real Estate	10.00	5.75 %
Liquidity Reserves	1.00	1.00 %
Total	<u>100.00 %</u>	

* Target allocation percentage is effective as of July 1, 2022.

Target weights were phased in over a 3-month period concluding on October 1, 2022.

**10-Year annualized geometric nominal returns, which include the real rate of return and inflation of 2.25% and is net of investment expenses. Over a 30-year period, STRS Ohio’s 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% as of June 30, 2022 and was 7.45% as of June 30, 2021. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed STRS Ohio continues to allocate no employer contributions to the health care fund. Based on these assumptions, the OPEB plan’s fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current plan members as of June 30, 2022. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on health care fund investments of 7.00% was applied to all periods of projected health care costs to determine the total OPEB liability as of June 30, 2022.

Western Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 10 – DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS (Continued)

Actuarial Assumptions – STRS (Continued)

Sensitivity of the School District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB (Asset) Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate and Changes in the Health Care Cost Trend Rates The following table represents the net OPEB liability as of June 30, 2022, calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 7.00%, as well as what the net OPEB (asset) liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.00%) or one percentage point higher (8.00%) than the current assumption. Also shown is the net OPEB (asset) liability as if it were calculated using health care cost trend rates that are one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current health care cost trend rates.

	1% Decrease in Discount Rate (6.00%)	Current Discount Rate (7.00%)	1% Increase in Discount Rate (8.00%)
School District's proportionate share of the net OPEB (asset) liability	(\$1,066,568)	(\$1,153,703)	(\$1,228,341)
	1% Decrease in Trend Rates	Current Trend Rate	1% Increase in Trend Rates
School District's proportionate share of the net OPEB (asset) liability	(\$1,196,670)	(\$1,153,703)	(\$1,099,466)

Assumption Changes Since the Prior Measurement Date - The discount rate remained unchanged at 7.00% for the June 30, 2022 valuation.

Benefit Term Changes Since the Prior Measurement Date - Salary increase rates were updated based on the actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2021 and were changed from age based to service based.

NOTE 11 - EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

A. Compensated Absences

The criteria for determining vacation and sick leave components are derived from negotiated agreements and State laws. Classified employees earn ten to twenty days of vacation per fiscal year, depending upon length of service. Vacation days are credited to these employees on the anniversary of their employment and should be used within the next twelve months. Vacation may be accumulated up to a maximum of 60 days. Accumulated, unused vacation time is paid to classified employees and administrators upon termination of employment. Teachers do not earn vacation time.

Teachers, administrators, and classified employees earn sick leave at the rate of one and one-fourth days per month. Sick leave may be accumulated up to a maximum of 228 days for all personnel. Upon retirement, payment is made for one-fourth of accrued, but unused sick leave credit to a maximum of 57 days.

B. Insurance Benefits

The School District provides life insurance and accidental death and dismemberment insurance to all full time employees through Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. The School District has elected to provide employee medical/surgical benefits and prescription drug benefits through United Health Care of Ohio. The employees share the cost of the monthly premium with the Board. The premium varies with employee depending on the terms of the union contract. Vision is provided, but employees pay total premium. Vision is through Employers' Vision Trust. Dental is paid 100% by the Board.

Western Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 11 - EMPLOYEE BENEFITS (Continued)

C. Deferred Compensation

School District employees may participate in the Ohio Public Employees Deferred Compensation Plan. This plan was created in accordance with Internal Revenue Code Section 457. Participation is on a voluntary payroll deduction basis. The plan permits deferral of compensation until future years. According to the plan, the deferred compensation is not available until termination, retirement, death or an unforeseeable emergency.

NOTE 12 - LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS

The changes in the School District's long-term obligations during fiscal year 2023 were as follows:

	Principal Outstanding 6/30/22	Additions	Deductions	Principal Outstanding 6/30/23	Due In One Year
Energy Conservation Bond- 1.74%	\$500,000	\$0	\$0	\$500,000	\$0
Net Pension Liability:					
STRS	5,422,754	4,482,096	0	9,904,850	0
SERS	2,057,932	1,079,727	0	3,137,659	0
Total Net Pension Liability	7,480,686	5,561,823	0	13,042,509	0
Net OPEB Liability:					
STRS*	0	0	0	0	0
SERS	1,040,201	0	251,323	788,878	0
Total Net OPEB Liability	1,040,201	0	251,323	788,878	0
Financed Purchase	50,246	0	50,246	0	0
Compensated Absences	473,925	885,059	496,984	862,000	0
Total Long-Term Obligations	\$9,545,058	\$6,446,882	\$798,553	\$15,193,387	\$0

*OPEB for STRS has a Net OPEB asset in the amount of \$1,153,703 as of June 30, 2023.

On October 7, 1997, Western Local School District was notified by the Ohio School Facilities Commission that they would not be responsible for repaying the remainder of the \$6,847,433 classroom facilities loan to the State because the School District's adjusted valuation per pupil was less than the state-wide median adjusted valuation per pupil. In lieu of the repayment, the School District must set aside the funds that would have been used for repayment for facilities maintenance. As part of this process, the School District must submit a maintenance plan to the Ohio School Facilities Commission every five years until the twenty-three year period expires. If the School District's adjusted valuation per pupil increases above the state-wide median adjusted valuation during the twenty-three year period, the School District may become responsible for repayment of a portion of the State's contribution. The School District will fulfill the twenty-three year period requirement during fiscal year 2025.

Energy Conservation Bonds – In July 2010, the School District issued \$500,000 in Energy Conservation Bonds for the purpose of installations, modifications of installations or remodeling that would significantly reduce energy consumption in current School District buildings. The bonds were issued at 1.74% interest rate and have a final maturity date of January 26, 2025. The bonds are being paid from the General Fund.

As part of the agreement, Ohio Valley bank deposited \$500,000 in the School District's name, with an escrow agent for the renovations to the buildings. The School District makes annual interest payments to Ohio Valley Bank and annual sinking fund payments to the escrow agent. The escrow agent is investing the School District's deposits and has guaranteed a return on the investments to meet the School District's bond liability. Ohio Valley Bank will be repaid in fiscal year 2026 when the \$500,000 bond payment is due. There are mandatory deposits required to be made with the escrow agent in order to ensure that the bond is paid timely. The School District is current on the deposits.

Western Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 12 - LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS (Continued)

Compensated absences will be paid from the fund from which the employees' salaries are paid with the General Fund being the most significant fund.

The School District's overall legal debt margin was \$6,446,984 with an unvoted debt margin of \$71,633 at June 30, 2023.

During 2018, the School District entered into a lease for energy efficient upgrades which is treated as a financed purchase. The lease was paid off during fiscal year 2023.

Principal and interest requirements to retire general obligation debt at June 30, 2023, are as follows:

Fiscal Year Ending June 30,	2012 Energy Conservation Bonds		
	Principal	Interest	Sinking Fund Payments
2024	-	8,700	28,913
2025	500,000	8,700	28,913
	\$ 500,000	\$ 17,400	\$ 57,826

NOTE 13 - JOINTLY GOVERNED ORGANIZATIONS

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

The governing board of META consists of a president, vice president and six board members who represent the members of META. The board works with META's Chief Executive Officer, Chief Operating Officer, and Chief Financial Officer to manage operations and ensure the continued progress of the organization's mission, vision, and values. The Board exercises total control over the operations of the Council including budgeting, appropriating, contracting and designating management. Each member's degree of control is limited to its representation on the Board. The School District paid META \$95,742 for services provided during the fiscal year. Financial information can be obtained from Ashley Widby, who serves as Chief Financial Officer, at 100 Executive Drive, Marion, Ohio 43302.

The Pike County Joint Vocational School - The Pike County Joint Vocational School is a distinct political subdivision of the State of Ohio operated under the direction of a Board consisting of the Pike County Board of Education and two representatives from the Waverly City Schools Board of Education, which possesses its own budgeting and taxing authority. To obtain financial information write to the Pike County Joint Vocational School, Tonya Cooper, who serves as Treasurer, at P. O. Box 577, 175 Beaver Creek Road, Piketon, Ohio 45661.

Coalition of Rural and Appalachian Schools - The Coalition of Rural and Appalachian Schools is a jointly governed organization of over one hundred school districts in southeastern Ohio. The Coalition is operated by a board which is composed of fourteen members. The board members are composed of one superintendent from each county elected by the school districts within that county. The Council provides various services for school district administrative personnel; gathers data regarding conditions of education in the region; cooperates with other professional groups to assess and develop programs designed to meet the needs of member districts; and provides staff development programs

Western Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 13 - JOINTLY GOVERNED ORGANIZATIONS (Continued)

for school district personnel. The Council is not dependent upon the continued participation of the School District and the School District does not maintain an equity interest in or a financial responsibility for the Council. The School District paid \$2,026 to the Coalition for services provided during the year.

NOTE 14 - INSURANCE PURCHASING POOL

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

NOTE 15 - CONTINGENCIES

1. **Grants**

The School District received financial assistance from federal and State agencies in the form of grants. The expenditure of funds received under these programs generally requires compliance with terms and conditions specified in the grant agreements and are subject to audit by the grantor agencies. Any disallowed claims resulting from such audits could become a liability of the General Fund or other applicable funds. However, the effect of any such disallowed claims on the overall financial position of the School District at June 30, 2023, if applicable, cannot be determined at this time.

2. **Litigation**

The School District is not party to legal proceedings as of June 30, 2023.

3. **Foundation**

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. As of the date of this report, an ODE adjustment for fiscal year 2023 was finalized and determined to not be significant, therefore the adjustment was not recorded in the accompanying financial statements. Additional ODE adjustments for fiscal year 2023 have not been finalized. As a result, the impact of future FTE adjustments on the fiscal year 2023 financial statements is not determinable, at this time. Management believes this may result in either an additional receivable to or liability of, the School District.

Western Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOE 16 - SET-ASIDE CALCULATIONS AND FUND RESERVE

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 or 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. The following information describes the change in the year-end set-aside amounts for capital acquisition. Disclosure of this information is required by State statute.

	Capital Acquisition
Set-aside Balance as of June 30, 2022	\$0
Current year set-aside requirement	158,401
Current year offsets	(40,079)
Current Year Qualifying Expenditures	(5,600)
Bond Proceeds	(112,722)
Balance Carried Forward to Fiscal Year 2023	\$0
Reserve Balance as of June 30, 2023	\$0

The School District had offsets and qualifying disbursements during the year that reduced the set-aside amount below zero in the Capital Acquisition Reserve. The carryover amount in the Capital Acquisition Reserve is limited to the balance of the offsets attributed to bond or tax levy proceeds. The School District is responsible for tracking the amount of the bond proceeds that may be used as an offset in future periods, which was \$180,069 at June 30, 2023.

NOTE 17 – INTERFUND ACTIVITY

Interfund Transfers

Transfers made during the year ended June 30, 2023, were as follows:

	Transfers From	Transfers To
General Fund	\$286,018	\$0
Non-major Special Revenue Funds:		
Lunchroom	0	185,382
Permanent Improvement		20,000
Student Activities	0	4,926
District Managed Activities	0	75,710
Total Non-major Special Revenue Funds	0	268,018
Total All Funds	\$286,018	\$286,018

Transfers were made to move unrestricted balances to support programs and projects accounted for in other funds.

Western Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 17 – INTERFUND ACTIVITY (Continued)

Interfund Advances

Interfund balances at June 30, 2023, consist of the following individual fund receivables and payables, which are expected to be repaid during the 2024 fiscal year:

Interfund Loans	Receivable	Payable
Major Funds:		
General Fund	\$218,417	\$0
ESSER Special Revenue Fund	0	118,472
Title I Special Revenue Fund	0	73,875
Non-major Funds:		
Student Managed Activities	0	804
School Improvement	0	556
21 st Century	0	1,249
Title VI-B	0	9,263
Drug Free Grant	0	5,281
Improving Teacher Quality	0	6,697
Miscellaneous Federal Grants	0	1,891
Early Childhood Services	0	329
Total Non-major Funds	0	26,070
Total All Funds	\$218,417	\$218,417

The amounts due to the General fund are the result of the School District moving unrestricted monies to support grant and student activity funds. The General fund will be reimbursed when funds become available in the special revenue funds.

NOTE 18 – ACCOUNTABILITY

At June 30, 2023, the ESSER, Title I, Lunchroom, Athletic, Title VI-B, Early Literacy, Improving Teacher Quality, and Miscellaneous Federal Grant Special Revenue Funds had fund balance deficits of \$171,741, \$57,627, \$45,119, \$2,550, \$6,795, \$329, \$338, and \$1,899 respectively which were created by the application of accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The General Fund provides transfers to cover deficit balances; however, this is done when cash is needed rather than when accruals occur.

NOTE 19 – FUND BALANCES

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

Western Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 19 – FUND BALANCES (Continued)

Fund Balances	General	ESSER	Title I	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Restricted for					
Classroom Facilities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 289,886	\$ 289,886
Other Purposes	-	-	-	225,894	225,894
Debt Services Payments	424,449	-	-	-	424,449
Total Restricted	<u>424,449</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>515,780</u>	<u>940,229</u>
Assigned to					
Other Purposes	979,808	-	-	-	979,808
Unassigned (Deficit)	<u>6,011,638</u>	<u>(171,741)</u>	<u>(57,627)</u>	<u>(57,030)</u>	<u>5,725,240</u>
Total Fund Balances	<u>\$ 7,415,895</u>	<u>\$ (171,741)</u>	<u>\$ (57,627)</u>	<u>\$ 458,750</u>	<u>\$ 7,645,277</u>

NOTE 20 – SIGNIFICANT COMMITMENTS

Encumbrances

Encumbrances are commitments related to unperformed contracts for goods or services. Encumbrance account is utilized to the extent necessary to assure effective budgetary control and accountability and to facilitate effective cash planning and control. At year-end the amount of significant encumbrances expected to be honored upon performance by the vendor in the next fiscal year were as follows:

<u>Governmental Funds</u>	
General	\$762,549

NOTE 21 - NEW ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES

For fiscal year 2023, the School District has implemented GASB Statement No. 91, “*Conduit Debt Obligations*”, GASB Statement No. 94, “*Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships and Availability Payment Arrangements*”, GASB Statement No. 96, “*Subscription Based Information Technology Arrangements*”, certain questions and answers of GASB Implementation Guide 2021-1 and certain paragraphs of GASB Statement No. 99, “*Omnibus 2022*”.

GASB Statement No. 91 provides a single method of reporting conduit debt obligations by issuers and eliminate diversity in practice associated with (1) commitments extended by issuers, (2) arrangements associated with conduit debt obligations, and (3) related note disclosures. This Statement achieves those objectives by clarifying the existing definition of a conduit debt obligation; establishing that a conduit debt obligation is not a liability of the issuer; establishing standards for accounting and financial reporting of additional commitments and voluntary commitments extended by issuers and arrangements associated with conduit debt obligations; and improving required note disclosures. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 91 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the School District.

GASB Statement No. 94 is to improve financial reporting by addressing issues related to public-private and public partnership arrangements (PPPs). As used in this Statement, a PPP is an arrangement in which a government (the transferor) contracts with an operator (a governmental or nongovernmental entity) to provide public services by conveying control of the right to operate or use a nonfinancial asset, such as infrastructure or other capital asset (the underlying PPP asset), for a period of time in an exchange or exchange-like transaction. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 94 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the School District.

Western Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 21 - NEW ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES (Continued)

GASB Statement No. 96 provides guidance on the accounting and financial reporting for subscription-based information technology arrangements (SBITAs) for government end users (governments). This Statement (1) defines a SBITA; (2) establishes that a SBITA results in a right-to-use subscription asset—an intangible asset— and a corresponding subscription liability; (3) provides the capitalization criteria for outlays other than subscription payments, including implementation costs of a SBITA; and (4) requires note disclosures regarding a SBITA. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 96 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the School District.

GASB Implementation Guide 2021-1 provides clarification on issues related to previously established GASB guidance. The implementation of GASB Implementation Guide 2021-1 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the School District.

GASB Statement No. 99 to enhance comparability in accounting and financial reporting and to improve the consistency of authoritative literature by addressing (1) practice issues that have been identified during implementation and application of certain GASB Statements and (2) accounting and financial reporting for financial guarantees. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 99 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the School District.

NOTE 22 – SUBSEQUENT EVENT

On August 28, 2023, the School District began making payments for the construction of a new career education building. As of March 2024, the School District has expended \$399,390 toward the construction project.

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Western Local School District
Required Supplementary Information
Schedule of the School District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability
School Employees Retirement System of Ohio
Last Ten Years

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
School District's proportion of the net pension liability	0.0580105%	0.0557749%	0.0527368%	0.0501256%	0.0504313%	0.0452633%	0.0453978%	0.0431230%	0.0428310%	0.0428310%
School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 3,137,659	\$ 2,057,932	\$ 3,488,123	\$ 2,999,103	\$ 2,888,294	\$ 2,704,382	\$ 3,322,700	\$ 2,460,640	\$ 2,167,653	\$ 2,547,022
School District's covered payroll	\$ 1,842,907	\$ 1,719,264	\$ 1,848,836	\$ 1,719,615	\$ 1,639,163	\$ 1,498,479	\$ 1,409,886	\$ 1,298,187	\$ 1,244,589	\$ 1,416,980
School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability as a percentage of its covered payroll	170.26%	119.70%	188.67%	174.41%	176.21%	180.48%	235.67%	189.54%	174.17%	179.75%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	75.82%	82.86%	68.55%	70.85%	71.36%	69.50%	62.98%	69.16%	71.70%	65.52%

(1) Information prior to 2013 is not available.
Amounts presented as of the School District's measurement date which is the prior fiscal year.

See accompanying notes to required supplementary information.

Western Local School District
Required Supplementary Information
Schedule of the School District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability
State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio
Last Ten Years

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
School District's proportion of the net pension liability	0.044555980%	0.042411987%	0.04175583%	0.04090804%	0.03949241%	0.03797200%	0.03556586%	0.03411180%	0.03444147%	0.03444147%
School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 9,904,850	\$ 5,422,754	\$ 10,103,425	\$ 9,046,567	\$ 8,683,494	\$ 9,020,330	\$ 11,904,965	\$ 9,427,504	\$ 8,377,357	\$ 9,979,053
School District's covered payroll	\$ 5,775,257	\$ 5,004,000	\$ 5,039,279	\$ 4,802,764	\$ 4,489,621	\$ 4,174,557	\$ 3,742,214	\$ 3,558,993	\$ 3,519,069	\$ 3,731,431
School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability as a percentage of its covered payroll	171.50%	108.37%	200.49%	188.36%	193.41%	216.08%	318.13%	264.89%	238.06%	267.43%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	78.88%	87.78%	75.48%	77.40%	77.31%	75.29%	66.78%	72.09%	74.71%	69.30%

(1) Information prior to 2013 is not available.
Amounts presented as of the School District's measurement date which is the prior fiscal year.

See accompanying notes to required supplementary information.

Western Local School District
Required Supplementary Information
Schedule of School District Pension Contributions
School Employees Retirement System of Ohio
Last Ten Years

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Contractually required contribution	\$ 270,573	\$ 258,007	\$ 240,697	\$ 258,837	\$ 232,148	\$ 221,287	\$ 209,787	\$ 197,384	\$ 171,101	\$ 172,500
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	<u>(270,573)</u>	<u>(258,007)</u>	<u>(240,697)</u>	<u>(258,837)</u>	<u>(232,148)</u>	<u>(221,287)</u>	<u>(209,787)</u>	<u>(197,384)</u>	<u>(171,101)</u>	<u>(172,500)</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
School District's covered payroll	\$ 1,932,664	\$ 1,842,907	\$ 1,719,264	\$ 1,848,836	\$ 1,719,615	\$ 1,639,163	\$ 1,498,479	\$ 1,409,886	\$ 1,298,187	\$ 1,244,589
Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	14.00% #	13.50%	13.50%	14.00%	14.00%	13.18%	13.86%

See accompanying notes to required supplementary information.

Western Local School District
Required Supplementary Information
Schedule of School District Pension Contributions
State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio
Last Ten Years

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Contractually required contribution	\$ 884,808	\$ 808,536	\$ 700,560	\$ 705,499	\$ 672,387	\$ 628,547	\$ 584,438	\$ 523,910	\$ 498,259	\$ 457,479
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	<u>(884,808)</u>	<u>(808,536)</u>	<u>(700,560)</u>	<u>(705,499)</u>	<u>(672,387)</u>	<u>(628,547)</u>	<u>(584,438)</u>	<u>(523,910)</u>	<u>(498,259)</u>	<u>(457,479)</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
School District covered payroll	\$ 6,320,057	\$ 5,775,257	\$ 5,004,000	\$ 5,039,279	\$ 4,802,764	\$ 4,489,621	\$ 4,174,557	\$ 3,742,214	\$ 3,558,993	\$ 3,519,069
Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	13.00%

See accompanying notes to required supplementary information.

Western Local School District
Required Supplementary Information
Schedule of the School District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability
School Employees Retirement System of Ohio
Last Seven Years (1)

	<u>2022</u>		<u>2021</u>		<u>2020</u>		<u>2019</u>		<u>2018</u>		<u>2017</u>		<u>2016</u>
School District's proportion of the net OPEB liability	0.05618750%		0.05496200%		0.05118210%		0.04955620%		0.05104350%		0.04566240%		0.04576570%
School District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$ 788,878	\$	1,040,201	\$	1,112,355	\$	1,246,234	\$	1,416,085	\$	1,225,459	\$	1,304,492
School District's covered payroll	\$ 1,842,907	\$	1,925,186	\$	1,848,836	\$	1,719,615	\$	1,639,163	\$	1,498,479	\$	1,409,886
School District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability as a percentage of its covered payroll	42.81%		54.03%		60.17%		72.47%		86.39%		81.78%		92.52%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability	30.34%		24.08%		18.17%		15.57%		13.57%		12.46%		11.49%

(1) Information prior to 2016 is not available.
Amounts presented as of the School District's measurement date which is the prior fiscal year.

See accompanying notes to required supplementary information.

Western Local School District
Required Supplementary Information
Schedule of the School District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset)
State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio
Last Seven Years (1)

	<u>2022</u>		<u>2021</u>		<u>2020</u>		<u>2019</u>		<u>2018</u>		<u>2017</u>		<u>2016</u>
School District's proportion of the net OPEB liability (asset)	0.044555980%		0.042411987%		0.04175583%		0.04090804%		0.03949241%		0.03797200%		0.03556586%
School District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability (asset)	\$ (1,153,703)	\$	(894,222)	\$	(733,858)	\$	(677,535)	\$	(634,603)	\$	1,481,527	\$	1,902,071
School District's covered payroll	\$ 5,792,486	\$	5,233,364	\$	5,039,279	\$	4,802,764	\$	4,489,621	\$	4,174,557	\$	3,742,214
School District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability (asset) as a percentage of its covered-employee payroll	-19.92%		-17.09%		-14.56%		-14.11%		-14.13%		35.49%		50.83%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability	230.73%		174.73%		182.13%		174.74%		176.00%		47.11%		37.33%

(1) Information prior to 2016 is not available.
Amounts presented as of the School District's measurement date which is the prior fiscal year.

See accompanying notes to required supplementary information.

Western Local School District
Required Supplementary Information
Schedule of School District Contributions for OPEB
School Employees Retirement System of Ohio
Last Eight Years (1)

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Contractually required contribution	\$ 20,437	\$ 20,691	\$ 23,537	\$ 16,124	\$ 30,347	\$ 35,239	\$ 23,641	\$ 22,128
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	<u>(20,437)</u>	<u>(20,691)</u>	<u>(23,537)</u>	<u>(16,124)</u>	<u>(30,347)</u>	<u>(35,239)</u>	<u>(23,641)</u>	<u>(22,128)</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
School District's covered payroll	\$ 2,245,136	\$ 1,842,907	\$ 1,925,186	\$ 1,848,836	\$ 1,719,615	\$ 1,639,163	\$ 1,498,479	\$ 1,409,886
Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll	0.91%	1.12%	1.22%	0.87%	1.76%	2.15%	1.58%	1.57%

(1) Information prior to 2016 is not available.

See accompanying notes to required supplementary information.

Western Local School District
Required Supplementary Information
Schedule of School District Contributions for OPEB
State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio
Last Eight Years (1)

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Contractually required contribution	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution				-	-	-	-	-
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
School District covered payroll	\$ 5,769,836	\$ 5,792,486	\$ 5,233,364	\$ 5,039,279	\$ 4,802,764	\$ 4,489,621	\$ 4,174,557	\$ 3,742,214
Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

(1) Information prior to 2016 is not available.

See accompanying notes to required supplementary information.

Western Local School District
Notes to the Required Supplementary Information
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Pension

School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

Changes in benefit terms

2023: There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for this fiscal year.

2022: For fiscal year 2022, SERS changed from a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) of 2.5% to 2.0%.

2020-2021: There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for this fiscal year.

2019: With the authority granted the Board under Senate Bill 8, the Board has enacted a three-year COLA delay for future benefit recipients commencing benefits on or after April 1, 2018.

2018: SERS changed from a fixed 3% annual increase to a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) based on the change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI-W), with a cap of 2.5% and a floor of 0%.

2014-2017: There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for these fiscal years.

Changes in assumptions

2023: There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for this fiscal year.

2022: The assumed rate of inflation was reduced from 3.00% to 2.40%, the assumed real wage growth was increased from 0.50% to 0.85%, the cost-of-living adjustments were reduced from 2.50% to 2.00%, the discount rate was reduced from 7.50% to 7.00%, the rates of withdrawal, compensation, participation, spouse coverage assumption, retirement, and disability were updated to reflect recent experience, and mortality among active members, service retirees and beneficiaries and disabled members were updated.

2018-2021: There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for these fiscal years.

2017: The following changes of assumptions affected the total pension liability since the prior measurement date:

- (1) The assumed rate of inflation was reduced from 3.25% to 3.00%,
- (2) Payroll growth assumption was reduced from 4.00% to 3.50%,
- (3) Assumed real wage growth was reduced from 0.75% to 0.50%,
- (4) Rates of withdrawal, retirement and disability were updated to reflect recent experience,
- (5) Mortality among active members was updated to RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with fully generational projection and a five year age set-back for both males and females,
- (6) Mortality among service retired members, and beneficiaries was updated to the following RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with fully generational projection with Scale BB, 120% of male rates, and 110% of female rates,
- (7) Mortality among disabled members was updated to RP-2000 Disabled Mortality Table, 90% for male rates and 100% for female rates, set back five years is used for the period after disability retirement, and
- (8) The discount rate was reduced from 7.75% to 7.50%.

2014-2016: There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for these fiscal years.

Western Local School District
Notes to the Required Supplementary Information
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Pension (continued)

State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

Changes in benefit terms

2019-2023: There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for these fiscal years.

2018: STRS decreased the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) to zero.

2014-2017: There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for these fiscal years.

Changes in assumptions

2023: The following change of assumptions affected the total pension liability since the prior measurement date:

- (1) The projected salary increases went from 12.50% at age 20 to 2.50% at age 65 to varies by service from 2.50% to 8.50%.

2022: The following changes of assumptions affected the total pension liability since the prior measurement date:

- (1) The long term expected rate of return was reduced from 7.45% to 7.00%,
- (2) The discount rate of return was reduced from 7.45% to 7.00%,

2019-2021: There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for these fiscal years.

2018: The following changes of assumptions affected the total pension liability since the prior measurement date:

- (1) The long term expected rate of return was reduced from 7.75% to 7.45%,
- (2) The inflation assumption was lowered from 2.75% to 2.50%,
- (3) The payroll growth assumption was lowered to 3.00%,
- (4) Total salary increases rate was lowered by decreasing the merit component of the individual salary increases, in addition to a decrease of 0.25% due to lower inflation,
- (5) The healthy and disabled mortality assumptions were updated to the RP-2014 mortality tables with generational improvement scale MP-2016, and
- (6) Rates of retirement, termination and disability were modified to better reflect anticipated future experience.

2014-2017: There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for these fiscal years.

OPEB

School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

Changes in benefit terms

2017-2023: There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for these fiscal years.

Changes in assumptions

2023 Amounts reported for the fiscal year incorporate changes in key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total OPEB liability as presented below:

- (1) The municipal bond index rate went from 1.92% to 3.69%
- (2) The single equivalent interest rate when from 2.27% to 4.08% medical trend assumptions went from 5.125% to 4.40% Medicare and 6.75% to 4.40% Pre-Medicare to 7.00% to 4.40%

Western Local School District
Notes to the Required Supplementary Information
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

OPEB (continued)

School Employees Retirement System (SERS) (continued)

Changes in assumptions (continued)

2022 Amounts reported for the fiscal year incorporate changes in key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total OPEB liability as presented below:

- (1) Wage inflation decreased from 3.00% to 2.40%
- (2) Future salary increases changed from 3.50%-18.20% to 3.25%-13.58%
- (3) Investment rate of return decreased from 7.50% to 7.00%
- (4) The discount rate decreased from 7.50% to 7.00%
- (5) Municipal Bond Index Rate:

Prior Measurement Date	2.45%
Measurement Date	1.92%
- (6) Single Equivalent Interest Rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation:

Prior Measurement Date	2.63%
Measurement Date	2.27%
- (7) Mortality tables changes from the RP=2014 Blue Collar mortality table to the PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weighted Below median Health Retiree mortality table.

2021: Amounts reported for the fiscal year incorporate changes in key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total OPEB liability as presented below:

- (1) The discount rate was changed from 3.22% to 2.63%
- (2) Municipal Bond Index Rate:

Prior Measurement Date	3.13%
Measurement Date	2.45%

2020: The discount rate was changed from 3.70% to 3.22%

2019: Amounts reported for the fiscal year incorporate changes in key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total OPEB liability as presented below:

- (1) The discount rate was changed from 3.63% to 3.70%
- (2) Municipal Bond Index Rate:

Prior Measurement Date	3.56%
Measurement Date	3.62%
- (3) Single Equivalent Interest Rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation:

Prior Measurement Date	3.63%
Measurement Date	3.70%

2018: Amounts reported for the fiscal year incorporate changes in key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total OPEB liability as presented below:

- (1) Discount Rate:

Fiscal Year 2018	3.63%
Fiscal Year 2017	2.98%
- (2) Municipal Bond Index Rate:

Fiscal Year 2018	3.56%
Fiscal Year 2017	2.92%
- (3) Single Equivalent Interest Rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation:

Fiscal Year 2018	3.63%
Fiscal Year 2017	2.98%

Western Local School District
Notes to the Required Supplementary Information
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

OPEB (continued)

School Employees Retirement System (SERS) (continued)

Changes in assumptions (continued)

2017: The following changes of assumptions affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date:

- (1) The assumed rate of inflation was reduced from 3.25% to 3.00%,
- (2) Payroll growth assumption was reduced from 4.00% to 3.50%,
- (3) Assumed real wage growth was reduced from 0.75% to 0.50%,
- (4) Rates of withdrawal, retirement and disability were updated to reflect recent experience,
- (5) Mortality among active members was updated to RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with fully generational projection and a five year age set-back for both males and females,
- (6) Mortality among service retired members, and beneficiaries was updated to the following RP- 2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with fully generational projection with Scale BB, 120% of male rates, and 110% of female rates, and
- (7) Mortality among disabled members was updated to RP-2000 Disabled Mortality Table, 90% for male rates and 100% for female rates, set back five years is used for the period after disability retirement.

State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

Changes in benefit terms

2023: There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for this fiscal year.

2022: There was no change to the claims costs process. The non-Medicare subsidy percentage was increased effective January 1, 2022 from 2.055 percent to 2.1 percent per year of service. The non-Medicare frozen subsidy base premium was increased effective January 1, 2022. The Medicare Part D Subsidy was updated to reflect it is expected to be negative in CY 2022. The Part B monthly reimbursement elimination date was postponed indefinitely.

2021: There was no change to the claims costs process. Claim curves were updated to reflect the projected FYE 2021 premium based on June 30, 2020 enrollment distribution. The non-Medicare subsidy percentage was increased effective January 1, 2021 from 1.984% to 2.055% per year of service. The non-Medicare frozen subsidy base premium was increased effective January 1, 2021. The Medicare subsidy percentages were adjusted effective January 1, 2021 to 2.1% for the AMA Medicare plan. The Medicare Part B monthly reimbursement elimination date was postponed indefinitely.

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

2019: The subsidy multiplier for non-Medicare benefit recipients was increased from 1.900% to 1.944% per year of service effective January 1, 2019. The non-Medicare frozen subsidy base premium was increased effective January 1, 2019 and all remaining Medicare Part B premium reimbursements will be discontinued beginning January 1, 2020. The Board is extending the current Medicare Part B partial reimbursement program for one year. Under this program, benefit recipients currently enrolled in the STRS Ohio Health Care Program and Medicare Part B receive \$29.90 per month to reimburse a portion of the Medicare Part B premium. The reimbursement was set to be reduced to \$0 beginning January 1, 2020. This impacts about 85,000 benefit recipients.

Western Local School District
Notes to the Required Supplementary Information
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

OPEB (continued)

State Teachers Retirement System (STRS) (Continued)

Changes in benefit terms (continued)

2018: The subsidy multiplier for non-Medicare benefit recipients was reduced from 2.1 percent to 1.9 percent per year of service. Medicare Part B premium reimbursements were discontinued for certain survivors and beneficiaries and all remaining Medicare Part B premium reimbursements will be discontinued beginning January 1, 2019.

2017: There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for this fiscal year.

Changes in assumptions

2023: The projected salary increase went from 12.50% at age 20 to 2.50% at age 65 to varies by services from 2.50% to 8.50%. The health care cost trend rates were changed to the following: Pre-Medicare from 5.00% initial - 4.00% ultimate to 7.50% initial - 3.94% ultimate; medical Medicare from -16.18% initial - 4.00% ultimate to -68.78% initial - 3.94% ultimate; prescription drug Pre-Medicare from 6.50% initial - 4.00% ultimate to 9.00% initial - 3.94% ultimate; Medicare from 29.98% initial - 4.00% ultimate to -5.47% initial - 3.94% ultimate.

2022: The long-term expected rate of return was reduced from 7.45% to 7.00%. The discount rate was reduced from 7.45% in the prior year to 7.00% in the current year. The health care cost trend rates were changed to the following: medical Medicare from -6.69% initial - 4.00% ultimate down to -16.18% initial - 4.00% ultimate; prescription drug Medicare from 11.87% initial - 4.00% ultimate up to 29.98% initial - 4.00% ultimate.

2021: The health care cost trend rates were changed to the following: medical pre-Medicare from 5.87% initial - 4.00% ultimate down to 5.00% initial - 4.00% ultimate; medical Medicare from 4.93% initial - 4.00% ultimate down to -6.69% initial - 4.00% ultimate; prescription drug pre-Medicare from 7.73% initial - 4.00% ultimate down to 6.50% initial - 4.00% ultimate; prescription drug Medicare from 9.62% initial - 4.00% ultimate up to 11.87% initial - 4.00% ultimate.

2020: The health care cost trend rates were changed to the following: medical pre-Medicare from 6.00% initial - 4.00% ultimate down to 5.87% initial - 4.00% ultimate; medical Medicare from 5.00% initial - 4.00% ultimate down to 4.93% initial - 4.00% ultimate; prescription drug pre-Medicare from 8.00% initial - 4.00% ultimate down to 7.73% initial - 4.00% ultimate and (5.23%) initial - 4.00% ultimate up to 9.62% initial - 4.00% ultimate.

2019: The discount rate was increased from the blended rate of 4.13% to the long-term expected rate of return of 7.45% based on the methodology defined under GASB Statement No. 74, Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans (OPEB). Valuation year per capita health care costs were updated.

2018: The discount rate was increased from 3.26 percent to 4.13 percent based on the methodology defined under GASB Statement No. 74, Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans (OPEB) and the long term expected rate of return was reduced from 7.75 percent to 7.45 percent. Valuation year per capita health care costs were updated, and the salary scale was modified. The percentage of future retirees electing each option was updated based on current data and the percentage of future disabled retirees and terminated vested participants electing health coverage were decreased. The assumed mortality, disability, retirement, withdrawal and future health care cost trend rates were modified along with the portion of rebated prescription drug costs.

2017: There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for this fiscal year.

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WESTERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PIKE COUNTY

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

FEDERAL GRANTOR <i>Pass Through Grantor</i> Program / Cluster Title	Federal Assistance Listing Number	Pass Through Entity Identifying Number	Total Federal Expenditures
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE			
<i>Passed Through Ohio Department of Education</i>			
Child Nutrition Cluster			
Non-cash Food Assistance (Food Distribution):			
National School Lunch Program	10.555		28,679
Cash Assistance			
School Breakfast Program	10.553	N/A	125,210
COVID-19 National School Lunch Program	10.555	N/A	22,326
National School Lunch Program	10.555	N/A	<u>292,627</u>
Total Child Nutrition Cluster			468,842
COVID-19 Pandemic EBT Snap Program	10.649	N/A	628
Total U.S. Department of Agriculture			<u>469,470</u>
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY			
<i>Passed Through Ohio Department of Education</i>			
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds			
Ohio K-12 School Safety Grant Program	21.027	N/A	12,460
Total Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds			<u>12,460</u>
Total U.S. Department of Treasury			<u>12,460</u>
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION			
<i>Passed Through Ohio Department of Education</i>			
Education Stabilization Fund			
COVID-19 Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER II)	84.425 D	N/A	813,992
COVID-19 American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ARP ESSER)	84.425 U	N/A	1,446,377
COVID-19 ARP ESSER – Homeless Children and Youth	84.425 W	N/A	<u>11,404</u>
Total Education Stabilization Fund			2,271,773
Special Education Cluster:			
Special Education-Grants to States - 2022 (IDEA-B)	84.027	N/A	24,033
Special Education-Grants to States - 2023 (IDEA-B)	84.027	N/A	<u>117,152</u>
Total Special Education Cluster			141,185
Special Education Technical Assistance:			
Special Education Technical Assistance	84.326M	N/A	<u>1,275</u>
			1,275
Title I:			
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies-2022	84.010	N/A	77,861
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies-2023	84.010	N/A	457,905
Title I Non-Competitive Supplemental School Improvement	84.010A	N/A	10,894
Title I School Quality Improvement-2022	84.010A	N/A	10,370
Title I School Quality Improvement-2023	84.010A	N/A	63,881
Title I Expanding Opportunities for Each Child - 2022	84.010A	N/A	1,627
Title I Expanding Opportunities for Each Child - 2023	84.010A	N/A	<u>21,509</u>
Total Title I			644,047
21st Century Community Learning Centers			
21st Century Community Learning Centers -2022	84.287 C	N/A	0
21st Century Community Learning Centers - 2023	84.287 C	N/A	<u>92,177</u>
Total Supporting Effective Instruction			92,177
Title II-A:			
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants-2022	83.367 A	N/A	5,034
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants-2023	84.367 A	N/A	<u>47,900</u>
Total Supporting Effective Instruction			52,934
Title V-B:			
Rural and Low Income - 2022	84.358 B	N/A	20,701
Rural and Low Income - 2023	84.358 B	N/A	<u>6,403</u>
Total Rural and Low Income			27,104
Title IV-A:			
Student Support Academic Enrichment - 2022	84.424 A	N/A	4,950
Student Support Academic Enrichment - 2023	84.424 A	N/A	<u>38,306</u>
			43,256
Total U.S. Department of Education			<u>3,273,751</u>
Total Expenditures of Federal Awards			<u>3,755,681</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

**WESTERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PIKE COUNTY**

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

NOTE A – BASIS OF PRESENTATION

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

NOTE F - TRANSFERS BETWEEN PROGRAM YEARS

Federal regulations require schools to obligate certain federal awards by June 30. However, with ODE’s consent, schools can transfer unobligated amounts to the subsequent fiscal year’s program. The School District transferred the following amounts from 2023 to 2024 programs:

<u>Program Title</u>	<u>Assistance Listing Number</u>	<u>Amount Transferred</u>
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010	\$ 109,865
Title I - School Quality Improvement	84.010 A	101,885
Special Education - Grants to States	84.027	239,903
Supporting Effective Instruction	84.367	21,061
Student Support Academic Enrichment	84.424	27,846
Rural and low Income	84.358	24,842
Early Childhood Special Education	84.173 A	9,169
COVID-19 American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ARP ESSER)	84.425U	1,237,210
COVID-19 ARP ESSER - Homeless Children and Youth	84.425W	337

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

Western Local School District
Pike County
7959 State Route 124
Latham, Ohio 45646

To the Board of Education:

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*), the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Western Local School District, Pike County, (the School District) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, 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 March 25, 2024.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the School District's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our 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. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. We identified certain deficiencies in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2023-001 and 2023-002 that we consider to be significant deficiencies.

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 no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

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

Purpose of This Report

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



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio
March 25, 2024

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

Western Local School District
Pike County
7959 State Route 124
Latham, Ohio 45646

To the Board of Education:

Report on Compliance for the Major Federal Program

Opinion on the Major Federal Program

We have audited Western Local School District's, Pike County, (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 Western Local School District's major federal program for the year ended June 30, 2023. Western 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, Western Local School District complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on its major federal program for the year ended June 30, 2023.

Basis for Opinion on the Major Federal Program

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

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

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

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the 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
March 25, 2024

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**WESTERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PIKE COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
2 CFR § 200.515
JUNE 30, 2023**

1. SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS

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

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

FINDING NUMBER 2023-001

Significant Deficiency

Maintaining organized documentation and support for financial transactions is essential in assuring the School District financial statements are not materially misstated.

Additionally, Ohio Admin. Code 117-2-02 states that all local public offices shall maintain an accounting system and accounting records sufficient to enable the public office to identify, assemble, analyze, classify, record and report its transactions, maintain accountability for the related assets and liabilities, document compliance with finance-related legal and contractual requirements and prepare financial statements.

The School District did not maintain all underlying documentation and support for 100% of Extracurricular receipts tested. Due to the lack of supporting information, we were unable to determine if correct rates were charged, or if funds were timely paid into the Treasurer from program directors. We performed alternative procedures to support our audit opinion over the School District's financial statements.

**FINDING NUMBER 2023-001
(Continued)**

Failure to maintain underlying documentation and support of financial transactions can increase the risk of fraud, result in financial statement misstatements, and revenues incorrectly charged or held for long periods of time.

The School District should maintain all supporting documentation for all financial transactions and records should be maintained in an orderly manner to support all transactions.

Officials' Response:

See Corrective Action Plan.

FINDING NUMBER 2023-002

Significant Deficiency

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. Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Cod. 1100 paragraph .101 states a governmental accounting system must make it possible both: (a) to present fairly and with full disclosure the funds and activities of the governmental unit in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles, and (b) to determine and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal and contractual provisions.

Due to deficiencies in the School District's financial statement monitoring and review process, the School District made the following errors:

- Claims Payable and Claims Expense were understated by \$10,757 due to the School District not obtaining required information to report the related self-insurance liability in Other Remaining Funds.
- Intergovernmental Revenue was overstated and Deferred Inflows Unavailable Revenue – Grants was understated in the amount of \$39,362 due to an error during compilation in the Title I fund.

The School District corrected the financial statements and their accounting system, where applicable, for all identified errors. In addition to the adjustments listed above, we also identified additional immaterial misstatements ranging from \$6,242 to \$267,384 that the School District did not correct.

Failure to accurately post and report transactions could result in material errors in the School District's financial statements and reduces the School District's ability to monitor financial activity and to make sound decisions which affect the overall available cash position of the School District.

The School District should review and implement internal controls to ensure financial transactions are accurately recorded and reported.

Officials' Response

See Corrective Action Plan.

3. FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS

None.

Western Local Board of Education

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SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS

2 CFR 200.511(b)

JUNE 30, 2023

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Status	Additional Information
2022-001	Significant Deficiency- Receipt Supporting Documentation	Not Corrected	Reissued as Finding 2023-001

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Western Local Board of Education

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LATHAM, OHIO 45646
740-493-3113

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

2 CFR § 200.511(c)

JUNE 30, 2023

Finding Number: 2023-001

Planned Corrective Action: Student Activity Advisors and Building Secretaries will insure that copies of checks will be taken to ensure that along with pay-ins the proper receipting is done. Donations are being approved by the board. The concessions advisor will provide receipts and a price list to ensure proper pricing of items sold at concessions. A list and date paid will be kept by advisors for ads sold for different class projects.

Anticipated Completion Date: 04/01/2024

Responsible Contact Person: Tyler Cooper

Finding Number: 2023-002

Planned Corrective Action: The District will review the report compiled by our GAAP auditors prior to the information being submitted for audit.

Anticipated Completion Date: 04/01/2024

Responsible Contact Person: Tyler Cooper

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



WESTERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

PIKE COUNTY

AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO CERTIFICATION

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



Certified for Release 3/28/2024

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