OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
FRANKLIN COUNTY
JUNE 30 2023

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER

88 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
ContactUs@ohioauditor.gov
(800) 282-0370

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Educational Service Center Council of Governments
Franklin County
2080 Citygate Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43219

To the Governing Board:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the business type activities and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Educational Service Center Council of Governments, Franklin County, Ohio (Council), a component unit of the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Council's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Educational Service Center Council of Governments, Franklin County, Ohio as of June 30, 2023, and the changes in financial position and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

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

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

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

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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

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

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council'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 Council's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

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

Required Supplementary Information

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

We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 22, 2024 on our consideration of the Council'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 Council '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 Council 's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

March 22, 2024

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The management's discussion and analysis of the Educational Service Center Council of Governments (the Council) provides an overall review of the Council's financial activities for the period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. The intent of this discussion and analysis is to look at the Council's financial performance as a whole; readers should also review the financial statements and notes to the basic financial statements to enhance their understanding of the Council's financial performance. The Council is a jointly governed entity between the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio, Gahanna-Jefferson Public School District, Delaware City School District, and Groveport Madison Local School District. Fiscal year 2009 was the first fiscal year of operations. The primary operations of the Council are to employ personnel on behalf of other governmental entities and agencies throughout Central Ohio.

Financial Highlights

Key financial highlights for fiscal year 2023 are as follows:

- Net position at June 30, 2023 was a deficit of $118,838,222; this represents a decrease of $3,565,942 compared to the prior fiscal year.

- Operating revenues were $127,389,283; this represents an increase of $18,576,793 or 17.1%.

Using the Basic Financial Statements

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 Council's financial activities. The statement of net position and statement of revenues, expenses and changes in net position provide information about the activities of the Council, including all short-term and long-term financial resources and obligations. The statement of cash flows provides information about how the Council finances and meets the cash flow needs of its operations.

Reporting the Council's Financial Activities

Statement of Net Position, Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position and the Statement of Cash Flows

These documents look at all financial transactions and ask the question, "How did the Council perform financially during 2023?" The statement of net position and the statement of revenues, expenses and changes in net position answer this question. These statements include all assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, revenues and expenses using the accrual basis of accounting similar to the accounting used by most private-sector companies. This basis of accounting will take into account all of the current year's revenues and expenses regardless of when cash is received or paid.

These two statements report the Council's net position and changes in net position. This change in net position is important because it tells the reader that, for the Council as a whole, the financial position of the Council has improved or diminished. The causes of this change may be the result of many factors, some financial, some not. These statements can be found on pages 8 and 9 of this report. The statement of cash flows can be found on page 10.

Reporting the Council's Fiduciary Responsibilities

The Council maintains an investment account held on behalf of other organizations which is reported as a fiduciary activity. All fiduciary activity is reported in separate statements of fiduciary net position and changes in fiduciary net position on pages 11 and 12. This is excluded from the Council's other financial statements because the assets cannot be utilized by the Council to finance its operations.

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the financial statements. These notes to the basic financial statements can be found on pages 13-34 of this report.

Required Supplementary Information

The required supplementary information provides detailed information regarding the Council's proportionate share of the net pension liability and the net OPEB liability/asset of the retirement systems. It also includes a ten year schedule of the Council's contributions to the retirement systems to fund pension and OPEB obligations. The required supplementary information can be found on pages 36-56 of this report.

The Council as a Whole

The statement of net position provides the perspective of the Council as a whole. The table that follows provides a summary of the Council's net position at June 30, 2023 and 2022.

Net Position

	2023	2022
Assets		
Current assets	$ 13,075,612	$ 11,916,199
Net OPEB asset	9,937,371	6,365,326
Other noncurrent assets	1,136,451	834,956
Total assets	24,149,434	19,116,481
Deferred outflows of resources		
Pension	47,606,034	30,355,528
OPEB	6,946,701	7,576,367
Total deferred outflows of resources	54,552,735	37,931,895
Liabilities		
Current liabilities	12,318,675	10,588,744
Noncurrent liabilities:		
Net pension liability	136,581,357	71,792,012
Net OPEB liability	13,543,861	17,515,731
Other amounts	1,151,635	848,765
Total liabilities	163,595,528	100,745,252
Deferred inflows of resources		
Pension	10,600,253	52,712,620
OPEB	23,344,610	18,862,784
Total deferred inflows of resources	33,944,863	71,575,404
Net position		
Restricted	2,371,725	-
Unrestricted (deficit)	(121,209,947)	(115,272,280)
Total net position (deficit)	$ (118,838,222)	$ (115,272,280)

The net pension liability (NPL) is the largest single liability reported by the Council 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 Council has adopted GASB Statement 75, "Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions," which significantly revises accounting for costs and liabilities related to other postemployment benefits (OPEB). For reasons discussed below, many end users of this financial statement will gain a clearer understanding of the Council's actual financial condition by adding deferred inflows related to pension and OPEB, the net pension liability and the net OPEB liability to the reported net position and subtracting deferred outflows related to pension and OPEB.

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 to equal the Council'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 Council 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.

In accordance with GASB 68 and GASB 75, the Council'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.

Analysis of Net Position

Over time, net position can serve as a useful indicator of a government's financial position. As the preceding table illustrates, some of the most significant changes were related to the net pension liability, net OPEB liability/asset, and the related deferred inflows and outflows of resources. The net pension and net OPEB liabilities represent the Council's share of the two state retirement systems' present value of estimated future pension benefits less the assets available to pay those benefits. This will fluctuate annually based on a number of factors including investment returns, actuarial assumptions used, and the Council's proportionate share of the net pension and net OPEB cost. As a result many end users of this financial statement will gain a clearer understanding of the Council's actual financial condition by adding deferred inflows related to pension and OPEB, the net pension liability and the net OPEB liability to the reported net position and subtracting deferred outflows related to pension and OPEB and the net OPEB asset. The result would be net position at June 30, 2023 of $741,753.

Current assets for the Council consist primarily of cash and cash equivalents and receivables from operations. The Council's noncurrent assets are receivables that are not expected to be received within one year and the net OPEB asset. Current liabilities are mostly accrued wages and benefits and amounts due to other governmental entities. The noncurrent liabilities reported at June 30, 2023 consist of the net pension liability, net OPEB liability and the long-term portion of the Council's compensated absences liability.

The table that follows shows the changes in net position for fiscal years 2023 and 2022.

Change in Net Position

	2023	2022
Operating revenues:		
Charges for services	$ 127,388,963	$ 108,791,301
Other	320	21,189
Total operating revenues	127,389,283	108,812,490
Operating expenses:		
Personnel services	100,501,695	85,366,230
Employee benefits	30,059,489	14,665,700
Purchased services	242,351	243,770
Materials and supplies	89,344	60,108
Other	62,346	57,947
Total operating expenses	130,955,225	100,393,755
Change in net position	(3,565,942)	8,418,735
Net position (deficit) at the beginning of the fiscal year	(115,272,280)	(123,691,015)
Net position (deficit) at the end of the fiscal year	$ (118,838,222)	$ (115,272,280)

The Council operates as a business-type enterprise fund. Results of the period ended June 30, 2023 indicate a decrease in net position of $3,565,942. The Council had much higher demand for employment services in fiscal year 2023, leading to an increase revenues and personnel services expenses. Employee benefits expenses includes the Council's pension and OPEB expense, calculated in accordance with GASB 68 and GASB 75. Pension expense increased by approximately $16 million. This was the result of an increase in expenses incurred at the pension system level for the State Teachers Retirement System (STRS) and the School Employees Retirement System (SERS) due to a decrease in net investment income compared to previous years.

The following table calculates the change in net position for fiscal years 2023 and 2022 without the effects of GASB 68 and 75.

	2023	2022
Total change in net position (with GASB 68 and 75)	$ (3,565,942)	$ 8,418,735
GASB 68 calculations:		
Add pension expense	19,283,507	3,299,675
Less current year contributions	(13,857,035)	(11,831,482)
GASB 75 calculations:		
Add OPEB expense	(1,697,446)	294,579
Less current year contributions	(734,977)	(606,882)
Total change in net position (without GASB 68 and 75)	$ (571,893)	$ (425,375)

Charges for services revenue is primarily the cost of employing personnel on behalf of other entities. The Council is reporting non-operating revenue in fiscal year 2023 for a dividend payment received from the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation. Personnel services expenses consist of employee salaries and wages. Employee benefits consist primarily of the aforementioned pension expense and OPEB expense, as well as the Council's share of employees' health and dental insurance premiums and the Council's required contributions to SERS and STRS.

Budget

As a Regional Council of Governments, the Council is not subject to the budgetary provisions set forth in Ohio Revised Code Chapter 5705.

Capital Assets and Debt Administration

The Council maintains no capital assets and has not issued any debt.

Economic Factors

The Council's ongoing activities are primarily dependent upon the continued support of the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio. Management is currently unaware of any other facts, decisions or conditions that have occurred that are expected to have a significant effect on financial position or results of operations.

Operations

The Council is served by an appointed five-member Board of Directors. The Board is made up of representatives from Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools, Delaware City Schools, Groveport Madison Local School District and two representatives appointed by the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio. The goal is to serve those entities that are served by the Center. The Council provides employment services to other governmental entities on a contractual basis.

Requests for Information

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, investors and creditors with a general overview of the Council's finances and to show the Council's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional financial information contact David Varda, Treasurer of the Educational Service Center Council of Governments, 2080 Citygate Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43219.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
JUNE 30, 2023

Assets:	
Current assets:	
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 4,115,955
Receivables	8,959,657
Total current assets	13,075,612
Noncurrent assets:	
Receivables	1,136,451
Net OPEB asset	9,937,371
Total noncurrent assets	11,073,822
Total assets	24,149,434
Deferred outflows of resources:	
Pension	47,606,034
OPEB	6,946,701
Total deferred outflows of resources	54,552,735
Liabilities:	
Current liabilities:	
Accounts payable	36,461
Accrued wages and benefits	6,853,834
Due to other governments	4,368,042
Compensated absences	1,060,338
Total current liabilities	12,318,675
Noncurrent liabilities:	
Compensated absences	1,151,635
Net pension liability	136,581,357
Net OPEB liability	13,543,861
Total noncurrent liabilities	151,276,853
Total liabilities	163,595,528
Deferred inflows of resources:	
Pension	10,600,253
OPEB	23,344,610
Total deferred inflows of resources	33,944,863
Net position:	
Restricted for OPEB	2,371,725
Unrestricted (deficit)	(121,209,947)
Total net position (deficit)	$ (118,838,222)

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND
CHANGES IN NET POSITION
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

Operating revenues:	
Charges for services	$ 127,388,963
Other	320
Total operating revenues	127,389,283
Operating expenses:	
Personnel services	100,501,695
Employee benefits	30,059,489
Purchased services	242,351
Materials and supplies	89,344
Other	62,346
Total operating expenses	130,955,225
Operating loss and change in net position	(3,565,942)
Net position (deficit) at beginning of fiscal year	(115,272,280)
Net position (deficit) at end of fiscal year	$ (118,838,222)

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

Cash flows from operating activities:	
Cash received from customers	$ 125,487,722
Cash received from other operations	320
Cash payments for personnel services	(98,817,229)
Cash payments for employee benefits	(26,717,267)
Cash payments for purchased services	(242,270)
Cash payments for materials and supplies	(89,344)
Cash payments for other expenses	(62,265)
Net cash used in operating activities	(440,333)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(440,333)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of fiscal year	4,556,288
Cash and cash equivalents at end of fiscal year	$ 4,115,955
Reconciliation of operating loss to net cash used in operating activities:	
Operating loss	$ (3,565,942)
Changes in assets, deferred inflows of resources, liabilities and deferred outflows of resources:	
Increase in receivables	(1,901,241)
Increase in net OPEB asset	(3,572,045)
Increase in deferred outflows - pension	(17,250,506)
Decrease in deferred outflows - OPEB	629,666
Increase in accounts payable	27,285
Increase in accrued wages and benefits	1,258,569
Increase in due to other governments	321,050
Increase in compensated absences payable	425,897
Increase in net pension liability	64,789,345
Decrease in net OPEB liability	(3,971,870)
Decrease in deferred inflows - pension	(42,112,367)
Increase in deferred inflows - OPEB	4,481,826
Net cash used in operating activities	$ (440,333)

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO

STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
JUNE 30, 2023

	Custodial
Assets:	
Investments	$ 720,161
Receivables:	
Accrued interest	162
Total assets	720,323
Net position:	
Restricted for other organizations	720,323
Total net position	$ 720,323

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	Custodial
Additions:	
Earnings on investments	$ 20,179
Total additions	20,179
Change in net position	20,179
Net position at beginning of year	700,144
Net position at end of year	$ 720,323

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 1 - DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNCIL AND REPORTING ENTITY

The Educational Service Center Council of Governments (the "Council") is a legally separate body politic and corporate that meets the definition of regional council of governments under Chapter 167 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Council is governed by a Governing Board consisting of one member designated by each of Gahanna-Jefferson Public School District, Groveport Madison Local District, Delaware City School District and two members designated by the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio (the "Center"). The Council provides employment services primarily to the Center.

Other School Districts, community schools and other political subdivisions that have entered into service agreements with the Council shall automatically be members of the Council's Advisory Committee during the terms of such agreements. The Treasurer of the Center is also the Treasurer of the Council. Due to the nature and significance of the Council's relationship with the Center, the Council has been determined to be a discretely presented component unit and has been included as part of the Center's basic financial statements.

The Council participates in a public entity shared risk pool to provide health and dental benefits to its employees. See Note 11 for additional detail.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

A. Basis of Presentation

The Council's basic financial statements consist of a statement of net position, a statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position, a statement of cash flows, a statement of fiduciary net position, and a statement of changes in fiduciary net position. Enterprise accounting is used to account for operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises, where the intent is that the costs (expenses, including depreciation) of providing goods or services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges; or where it has been decided that periodic determination of revenues earned, expenses incurred, and net income is appropriate for capital maintenance, public policy, management control, accountability or other purposes. This includes all non-fiduciary activity for the Council.

The Council maintains a custodial fund which is used to accounts for resources held on behalf of other organizations. These activities are reported in separate statements of fiduciary net position and changes in fiduciary net position.

B. Measurement Focus

The accounting and financial reporting treatment is determined by its measurement focus. Enterprise accounting and fiduciary fund accounting use a "flow of economic resources" measurement focus. With this measurement focus, all assets and deferred outflows of resources and all liabilities and deferred inflows of resources are included on the statement of net position.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Continued)

C. Basis of Accounting

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

D. Budgetary Process

Regional Council of Governments are not subject to the budgetary provisions set forth in Ohio Revised Code Chapter 5705.

E. Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investments

Cash held by the Council is reflected as "cash and cash and equivalents" on the statement of net position. All monies received by the Council are maintained in demand deposit accounts or used to purchase investments. For internal accounting purposes, the Council segregates its cash. Investments with an original maturity of three months or less at the time they are purchased are presented on the financial statements as cash equivalents. Investments with an original maturity of more than three months are reported as investments.

Investments are reported at fair value, except for non-negotiable certificates of deposit, which are reported at cost. The Council's investments in fiscal year 2023 consisted of U.S. Treasury Bonds and U.S. Government obligations.

F. Capital Assets

The Council maintains no capital assets.

G. Net Position

Net position represents the difference between assets and deferred outflows of resources and liabilities and deferred inflows of resources. Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on its use either through the enabling legislation adopted by the Council or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors or laws or regulations of other governments. The Council did not have any restricted net position at fiscal year-end.

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

H. 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 Council will compensate the employees for the benefits through paid time off or some other means. The Council records a liability for accumulated unused vacation time when earned for all employees.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Continued)

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 Council 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 Council's termination policy. The Council records a liability for accumulated unused sick leave for all employees age 52 years and older.

I. Accrued Liabilities and Long-Term Obligations

All payables, accrued liabilities and long-term obligations are reported in the financial statements using the accrual basis of accounting.

J. Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United State of America (GAAP) 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.

K. Operating Revenues and Expenses

Operating revenues are those revenues that are generated directly from the primary activity of the Council. Operating expenses are necessary cost incurred to provide the service that is the primary activity of the Council. All revenues and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as non-operating.

L. Extraordinary and Special Items

Extraordinary items are transactions or events that are both unusual in nature and infrequent in occurrence. Special items are transactions or events that are within the control of the Governing Board and that are either unusual in nature or infrequent in occurrence. The Council had no extraordinary or special items during fiscal year 2023.

M. Pensions/Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)

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

N. Fair Value

The Council 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.

NOTE 3 - CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES

For fiscal year 2023, the Council 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 Council.

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 Council.

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. To the extent relevant, the standards for SBITAs are based on the standards established in Statement No. 87, Leases, as amended. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 96 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the Council.

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 Council.

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 Council.

NOTE 4 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

A. Deposits with Financial Institutions

At June 30, 2023, the carrying amount of all Council deposits was $4,115,955 and the bank balance of all Council deposits was $4,128,625. Of the bank balance, $250,000 was covered by the FDIC and $3,878,625 was potentially exposed to custodial credit risk as discussed below because those deposits were uninsured and could be uncollateralized. Although all statutory requirements for the deposit of money had been followed, noncompliance with Federal requirements could potentially subject the Council to a successful claim by the FDIC.

NOTE 4 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS - (Continued)

Custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of bank failure, the Council's deposits may not be returned. The Council has no deposit policy for custodial risk beyond the requirements of State statute. Ohio law requires that deposits either be insured or protected by: (1) eligible securities pledged to the Council and deposited with a qualified trustee by the financial institution as security for repayment whose fair value at all times shall be at least 105 percent of the deposits being secured; or (2) 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 fair value of the securities pledged to be 102 percent of the deposits being secured or a rate set by the Treasurer of State. For fiscal year 2023, the Council's financial institutions were approved for a reduced collateral rate of 50 percent through the OPCS.

B. Investments

As of June 30, 2023, the Council had the following investments and maturities:

		Investment Maturities	
Investment type	Fair Value	6 months or less	Percentage of Total
U.S. Treasury Bonds	$ 297,437	$ 297,437	41.30
U.S. Government Obligations	422,724	422,724	58.70
	$ 720,161	$ 720,161	100.00

The weighted average maturity of investments is approximately 0.08 years or 28 days.

The Council's investments are valued using quoted market prices in markets that are not considered to be active, dealer quotations or alternative pricing sources for similar assets or liabilities for which all significant inputs are observable, either directly or indirectly (Level 2 inputs).

Interest Rate Risk: Interest rate risk is the possibility that changes in interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. The Council's investment policy places a five year limit on investment maturities as a means of managing its exposure to fair value losses arising from increasing interest rates.

Credit Risk: The Council's investments were rated AA+ and Aaa by Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investor Services, respectively. The Council's investment policy does not specifically address credit risk beyond the adherence to all relevant sections of the Ohio Revised Code.

Custodial Credit Risk: For an investment, custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the Council will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The Council's investments are exposed to custodial credit risk in that they are uninsured, unregistered and held by the counterparty's trust department or agent but not in the Council's name.

The Council has no investment policy dealing with investment custodial risk beyond the requirement in State statute that prohibits payment for investments prior to the delivery of the securities representing such investments to the Treasurer or qualified trustee.

Concentration of Credit Risk: The Council's investment policy places no limit on the percentage of the Council's portfolio that may be invested in any one issuer.

NOTE 5 - RECEIVABLES

Receivables at June 30, 2023, consist of amounts due from operations and accrued interest on investments. $1,136,451 is not expected to be collected within one year and is reported as a noncurrent asset on the statement of net position.

NOTE 6 - LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS

The following is a summary of the Council's long-term obligations activity in fiscal year 2023:

	Balance June 30, 2022	Additions	Reductions	Balance June 30, 2023	Due Within One Year
Compensated absences	$ 1,786,076	$ 1,363,208	$ (937,311)	$ 2,211,973	$ 1,060,338
Net pension liability	71,792,012	64,789,345	-	136,581,357	-
Net OPEB liability	17,515,731	-	(3,971,870)	13,543,861	-
Total	$ 91,093,819	$ 66,152,553	$ (4,909,181)	$ 152,337,191	$ 1,060,338

NOTE 7 - CONTINGENCIES

There are currently no matters in litigation with the Council as plaintiff or defendant.

NOTE 8 - RISK MANAGEMENT

A. General Risk

The Council is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts, theft or damage, destruction of assets, errors and omissions, injuries to employees, and natural disasters. The Council has addressed the various types of risk by purchasing a comprehensive insurance policy through commercial carriers. General liability insurance is maintained in the amount of $15,000,000 per occurrence. Automobile liability is maintained in the amount of $15,000,000 per occurrence. Cyber security claims are insured in the amount of $5,000,000 policy aggregate, $1,000,000 insured member aggregate limit. Settled claims have not exceeded this commercial coverage in any of the past three years and there has been no significant reduction in coverage from the prior year.

B. Workers' Compensation

Workers' compensation coverage is provided by the State of Ohio. The Council pays the Bureau of Workers' Compensation a premium based on a rate per $100 of payroll. This rate is calculated based on accident history and administrative costs.

NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS

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

Net Pension Liability/Net OPEB Liability/Asset

The net pension liability and the net OPEB liability/asset reported on the statement of net position represents a liability or asset to employees for pensions and OPEB, respectively.

Pensions and OPEB are a component of exchange transactions–between an employer and its employees–of salaries and benefits for employee services. Pensions/OPEB are provided to an employee–on a deferred-payment basis–as part of the total compensation package offered by an employer for employee services each financial period. The obligation to sacrifice resources for pensions is a present obligation because it was created as a result of employment exchanges that already have occurred.

NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

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

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

GASB 68/75 assumes the liability is solely the obligation of the employer, because (1) they benefit from employee services; and (2) State statute requires funding to come from these employers. All pension contributions to date have come solely from these employers (which also includes pension costs paid in the form of withholdings from employees). The retirement systems may allocate a portion of the employer contributions to provide for these OPEB benefits. In addition, health care plan enrollees pay a portion of the health care costs in the form of a monthly premium. State statute requires the retirement systems to amortize unfunded pension liabilities within 30 years. If the pension amortization period exceeds 30 years, each retirement system's board must propose corrective action to the State legislature. Any resulting legislative change to benefits or funding could significantly affect the net pension/OPEB liability (asset). Resulting adjustments to the net pension/OPEB liability (asset) would be effective when the changes are legally enforceable. The Ohio Revised Code permits, but does not require, the retirement systems to provide healthcare to eligible benefit recipients.

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

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

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

Plan Description - The Council's 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.

Age and service requirements for retirement are as follows:

	Eligible to Retire on or before August 1, 2017 *	Eligible to Retire after August 1, 2017
Full benefits	Any age with 30 years of service credit	Age 67 with 10 years of service credit; or Age 57 with 30 years of service credit
Actuarially reduced benefits	Age 60 with 5 years of service credit; or 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.

NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

Annual retirement benefits are calculated based on final average salary multiplied by a percentage that varies based on years of service; 2.2% for the first thirty years of service and 2.5% 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. Beginning April 1, 2018, 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. A three-year COLA suspension was in effect for all benefit recipients for the years 2018, 2019, and 2020. Upon resumption of the COLA, it will be indexed to the percentage increase in the CPI-W, not to exceed 2.5% and with a floor of 0%. In 2022, the Board of Trustees approved a 2.5% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for eligible retirees and beneficiaries in 2023.

Funding Policy - Plan members are required to contribute 10.00% of their annual covered salary and the Council is required to contribute 14.00% 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 10.00% for plan members and 14.00% 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, the allocation to pension, death benefits, and Medicare B was 14.00%. For fiscal year 2023, the Retirement Board did not allocate any employer contribution to the Health Care Fund.

The Council's contractually required contribution to SERS was $5,587,130 for fiscal year 2023. Of this amount, $353,329 is reported as a liability.

Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

Plan Description - Licensed teachers participate in STRS, 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 website 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 (CO) Plan. Benefits are established by Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3307.

The DB plan offers an annual retirement allowance based on final average salary multiplied by a percentage that varies based on years of service. Effective August 1, 2015, the calculation is 2.20% of final average salary for the five highest years of earnings multiplied by all years of service. Eligibility changes will be phased in until August 1, 2023, when retirement eligibility for unreduced benefits will be five years of service credit and age 65, or 35 years of service credit and at least age 60.

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

The DC Plan allows members to place all 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.

NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

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

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

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

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

The Council's contractually required contribution to STRS was $8,269,905 for fiscal year 2023. Of this amount, $605,340 is reported as a liability.

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

The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2022, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The Council's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the Council's share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the contributions of all participating entities.

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

	SERS	STRS	Total
Proportion of the net pension liability prior measurement date	0.89956440%	0.30190051%	
Proportion of the net pension liability current measurement date	0.94783530%	0.38378123%	
Change in proportionate share	0.04827090%	0.08188072%	
Proportionate share of the net pension liability	$ 51,266,305	$ 85,315,052	$ 136,581,357
Pension expense	$ 3,526,993	$ 15,756,514	$ 19,283,507

NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

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

	SERS	STRS	Total
Deferred outflows of resources			
Differences between expected and actual experience	$ 2,076,327	$ 1,092,144	$ 3,168,471
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	-	2,968,777	2,968,777
Changes of assumptions	505,854	10,209,648	10,715,502
Difference between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions/ change in proportionate share	1,678,053	15,218,196	16,896,249
Contributions subsequent to the measurement date	5,587,130	8,269,905	13,857,035
Total deferred outflows of resources	$ 9,847,364	$ 37,758,670	$ 47,606,034

	SERS	STRS	Total
Deferred inflows of resources			
Differences between expected and actual experience	$ 336,551	$ 326,356	$ 662,907
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	1,788,960	-	1,788,960
Changes of assumptions	-	7,684,930	7,684,930
Difference between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions/ change in proportionate share	463,456	-	463,456
Total deferred inflows of resources	$ 2,588,967	$ 8,011,286	$ 10,600,253

$13,857,035 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pension resulting from Council contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.

Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pension will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

	SERS	STRS	Total
Fiscal Year Ending June 30:			
2024	$ 600,339	$ 5,705,104	$ 6,305,443
2025	653,536	4,596,666	5,250,202
2026	(2,555,566)	2,523,380	(32,186)
2027	2,972,958	8,652,329	11,625,287
Total	$ 1,671,267	$ 21,477,479	$ 23,148,746

NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

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, are presented below:

Wage inflation:	
Current measurement date	2.40%
Prior measurement date	2.40%
Future salary increases, including inflation:	
Current measurement date	3.25% to 13.58%
Prior measurement date	3.25% to 13.58%
COLA or ad hoc COLA:	
Current measurement date	2.00%
Prior measurement date	2.00%
Investment rate of return:	
Current measurement date	7.00% net of system expenses
Prior measurement date	7.00% net of system expenses
Discount rate:	
Current measurement date	7.00%
Prior measurement date	7.00%
Actuarial cost method	Entry age normal (level percent of payroll)

In 2022, mortality rates were based on the PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weight Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 94.20% for males and set forward 2 years and adjusted 81.35% 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% for males and set forward 3 years and adjusted 106.8% for females. Future improvement in mortality rates is reflected by applying the MP-2020 projection scale generationally.

NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

In the prior measurement date, mortality rates were based on the PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weight Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 94.20% for males and set forward 2 years and adjusted 81.35% 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% for males and set forward 3 years and adjusted 106.8% for females. Future improvement in mortality rates is reflected by applying the MP-2020 projection scale generationally.

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

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

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

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

Discount Rate - The total pension liability was calculated using the discount rate of 7.00%. 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%). Based on those assumptions, the plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefits to determine the total pension liability.

Sensitivity of the Council'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%, 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%), or one percentage point higher (8.00%) than the current rate.

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	$ 75,461,554	$ 51,266,305	$ 30,882,137

NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

Actuarial Assumptions - STRS

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

	June 30, 2022	June 30, 2021
Inflation	2.50%	2.50%
Projected salary increases	Varies by service from 2.50% to 8.50%	12.50% at age 20 to 2.50% at age 65
Investment rate of return	7.00%, net of investment expenses, including inflation	7.00%, net of investment expenses, including inflation
Discount rate of return	7.00%	7.00%
Payroll increases	3.00%	3.00%
Cost-of-living adjustments (COLA)	0.00%	0.00%

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 prior measurement date, post-retirement mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Annuitant Mortality Tables 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 Tables, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016. Post-retirement disabled mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Disabled Mortality Tables 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.

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 Real 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 %	

NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

* 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 Council's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate - The following table represents the net pension liability as of June 30, 2022, calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 7.00%, as well as what the net pension 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:

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
Council's proportionate share of the net pension liability	$ 128,879,983	$ 85,315,052	$ 48,472,606

Changes Between Measurement Date and 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 OPEB Liability/Asset

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

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

Health Care Plan Description - The Council contributes to the SERS Health Care Fund, administered by SERS for non-certificated retirees and their beneficiaries. For GASB 75 purposes, this plan is considered a cost-sharing other postemployment benefit (OPEB) plan. SERS' Health Care Plan provides healthcare benefits to eligible individuals receiving retirement, disability, and survivor benefits, and to their eligible dependents. Members who retire after June 1, 1986, need 10 years of service credit, exclusive of most types of purchased credit, to qualify to participate in SERS' health care coverage. In addition to age and service retirees, disability benefit recipients and beneficiaries who are receiving monthly benefits due to the death of a member or retiree, are eligible for SERS' health care coverage. Most retirees and dependents choosing SERS' health care coverage are over the age of 65 and therefore enrolled in a fully insured Medicare Advantage plan; however, SERS maintains a traditional, self-insured preferred provider organization for its non-Medicare retiree population. For both groups, SERS offers a self-insured prescription drug program. Health care is a benefit that is permitted, not mandated, by statute. The financial report of the Plan is included in the SERS Annual Comprehensive Financial Report which can be obtained on SERS' website at www.ohsers.org under Employers/Audit Resources.

NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

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% of covered payroll to the Health Care Fund in accordance with the funding policy. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, SERS did not allocate any employer contributions to post-employment 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% of that employer's SERS-covered payroll; nor may SERS collect in aggregate more than 1.5% of the total statewide SERS-covered payroll for the health care surcharge. For fiscal year 2023, the Council's surcharge obligation was $734,977.

The surcharge added to the allocated portion of the 14% employer contribution rate is the total amount assigned to the Health Care Fund. The Council's contractually required contribution to SERS was $734,977 for fiscal year 2023, which is reported as a liability.

Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

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

OPEB Liabilities/Assets, OPEB Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB

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

NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

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

	SERS	STRS	Total
Proportion of the net OPEB liability/asset prior measurement date	0.92549390%	0.30190051%	
Proportion of the net OPEB liability/asset current measurement date	0.96465530%	0.38378123%	
Change in proportionate share	0.03916140%	0.08188072%	
Proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	$ 13,543,861	$ -	$ 13,543,861
Proportionate share of the net OPEB (asset)	$ -	$ (9,937,371)	$ (9,937,371)
OPEB expense	$ (95,858)	$ (1,601,588)	$ (1,697,446)

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

	SERS	STRS	Total
Deferred outflows of resources			
Differences between expected and actual experience	$ 113,856	$ 144,061	$ 257,917
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on OPEB plan investments	70,394	172,987	243,381
Changes of assumptions	2,154,325	423,297	2,577,622
Difference between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions/ change in proportionate share	2,835,606	297,198	3,132,804
Contributions subsequent to the measurement date	734,977	-	734,977
Total deferred outflows of resources	$ 5,909,158	$ 1,037,543	$ 6,946,701

	SERS	STRS	Total
Deferred inflows of resources			
Differences between expected and actual experience	$ 8,663,649	$ 1,492,411	$ 10,156,060
Changes of assumptions	5,559,853	7,046,563	12,606,416
Difference between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions/ change in proportionate share	517,919	64,215	582,134
Total deferred inflows of resources	$ 14,741,421	$ 8,603,189	$ 23,344,610

$734,977 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB resulting from Council contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net OPEB liability/asset in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.

NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in OPEB expense as follows:

	SERS	STRS	Total
Fiscal Year Ending June 30:			
2024	$ (1,894,622)	$ (2,090,029)	$ (3,984,651)
2025	(1,975,056)	(2,184,369)	(4,159,425)
2026	(1,938,856)	(1,057,490)	(2,996,346)
2027	(1,416,293)	(450,974)	(1,867,267)
2028	(976,177)	(588,197)	(1,564,374)
Thereafter	(1,366,236)	(1,194,587)	(2,560,823)
Total	$ (9,567,240)	$ (7,565,646)	$ (17,132,886)

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.

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NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

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

Wage inflation:	
Current measurement date	2.40%
Prior measurement date	2.40%
Future salary increases, including inflation:	
Current measurement date	3.25% to 13.58%
Prior measurement date	3.25% to 13.58%
Investment rate of return:	
Current measurement date	7.00% net of investment expense, including inflation
Prior measurement date	7.00% net of investment expense, including inflation
Municipal bond index rate:	
Current measurement date	3.69%
Prior measurement date	1.92%
Single equivalent interest rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation:	
Current measurement date	4.08%
Prior measurement date	2.27%
Medical trend assumption:	
Current measurement date	7.00 to 4.40%
Prior measurement date	
Medicare	5.125 to 4.400%
Pre-Medicare	6.750 to 4.400%

In 2022, mortality rates were based on the PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weight Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 94.20% for males and set forward 2 years and adjusted 81.35% 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% for males and set forward 3 years and adjusted 106.8% for females. Future improvement in mortality rates is reflected by applying the MP-2020 projection scale generationally.

In the prior measurement date, mortality rates 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% for males and set forward 2 years and adjusted 81.35% 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% for males and set forward 3 years and adjusted 106.8% for females. Future improvement in mortality rates is reflected by applying the MP-2020 projection scale generationally.

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

NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

The long-term expected rate of return on plan assets is reviewed as part of the actuarial 5-year experience study. The most recent study covers fiscal years 2016 through 2020, and was adopted by the Board in 2021. Several factors are considered in evaluating the long-term rate of return assumption including long-term historical data, estimates inherent in current market data, and a long-normal distribution analysis in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return were developed by the investment consultant for each major asset class. These ranges were combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return, 7.00%, 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 are summarized as follows:

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

Discount Rate - The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability at June 30, 2022, was 4.08%. The discount rate used to measure total OPEB liability prior to June 30, 2022, was 2.27%. 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% of projected covered payroll each year, which includes a 1.50% 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% at June 30, 2022 and 1.92% at June 30, 2021.

Sensitivity of the Council'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, what the 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%). Also shown is what the 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%).

NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
Council's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	$ 16,821,680	$ 13,543,861	$ 10,897,771

	1% Decrease	Current Trend Rate	1% Increase
Council's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	$ 10,444,747	$ 13,543,861	$ 17,591,805

Actuarial Assumptions - STRS

Key methods and assumptions used in the latest actuarial valuation, reflecting experience study results used in the June 30, 2022 actuarial valuation, compared with 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 2.50% to 8.50%		12.50% at age 20 to 2.50% at age 65	
Investment rate of return	7.00%, net of investment expenses, including inflation		7.00%, net of investment expenses, including inflation	
Payroll increases	3.00%		3.00%	
Cost-of-living adjustments (COLA)	0.00%		0.00%	
Discount rate of return	7.00%		7.00%	
Blended discount rate of return	N/A		N/A	
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%

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

For the June 30, 2022 actuarial valuation, for healthy retirees the 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. For disabled retirees, mortality rates are based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Disabled Annuitant Table projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020.

NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

For the prior measurement date, for healthy retirees the mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Annuitant Mortality Tables 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. For disabled retirees, mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Disabled Mortality Tables 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.

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.

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

Asset Class	Target Allocation*	Long-Term Expected Real 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 OPEB liability was 7.00% as of June 30, 2022. 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 those assumptions, the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current plan members 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.

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

NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
Council's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	$ 9,202,191	$ 9,937,371	$ 10,580,269

	1% Decrease	Current Trend Rate	1% Increase
Council's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	$ 10,307,473	$ 9,937,371	$ 9,470,212

NOTE 11 - PUBLIC ENTITY SHARED RISK POOL

The Council is a member of the Optimal Health Initiatives Consortium (the “Consortium”), a public entity shared risk pool, consisting of school districts and other entities whose self-insurance programs for health care benefits were administered previously under the Scioto County Schools Council of Governments, the Northern Buckeye Education Council, and the Butler Health Plan. The overall objective of the Consortium is to enable its members to purchase employee benefits and related products and services using the Consortium’s economies of scale to create cost-savings. Members pay monthly premiums to the Consortium based on the benefits structure selected and the risk of loss transfers to the Consortium upon payment of these premiums. The Consortium’s business and affairs are managed by an Executive Board of Trustees, consisting of the chairperson of each division’s board of trustees and the chairperson of the Butler Health Plan. The participants pay an administrative fee to the fiscal agent to cover the costs of administering the Consortium. To obtain financial information, write to the fiscal agent, Todd Rosenbaum, Mountjoy Chilton Medley LLP, 201 East 5th Street, Suite 2100, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO

SCHEDULES OF REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

SCHEDULE OF THE COUNCIL'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF
THE NET PENSION LIABILITY
SCHOOL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM (SERS) OF OHIO

LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS

	2023	**2022**	**2021**	**2020**
Council's proportion of the net pension liability	0.94783530%	0.89956440%	0.93251630%	0.87077030%
Council's proportionate share of the net pension liability	$ 51,266,305	$ 33,191,318	$ 61,678,593	$ 52,099,714
Council's covered payroll	$ 34,235,893	$ 31,107,043	$ 32,784,243	$ 30,115,867
Council's proportionate share of the net pension liability as a percentage of its covered payroll	149.74%	106.70%	188.13%	173.00%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	75.82%	82.86%	68.55%	70.85%

Amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the Council's measurement date which is the prior year-end.

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
0.78786440%	0.74505190%	0.71481970%	0.68810160%	0.69361400%	0.69361400%
$ 45,122,453	$ 44,515,205	$ 52,318,206	$ 39,263,744	$ 35,103,410	$ 41,246,998
$ 26,091,911	$ 24,660,436	$ 22,447,650	$ 20,715,448	$ 20,155,058	$ 17,721,871
172.94%	180.51%	233.07%	189.54%	174.17%	232.75%
71.36%	69.50%	62.98%	69.16%	71.70%	65.52%

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO

SCHEDULES OF REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

SCHEDULE OF THE COUNCIL'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF
THE NET PENSION LIABILITY
STATE TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM (STRS) OF OHIO

LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS

	2023	2022	2021	2020
Council's proportion of the net pension liability	0.38378123%	0.30190051%	0.28120886%	0.28034998%
Council's proportionate share of the net pension liability	$ 85,315,052	$ 38,600,694	$ 68,042,538	$ 61,997,713
Council's covered payroll	$ 50,274,693	$ 37,630,957	$ 34,622,743	$ 33,192,686
Council's proportionate share of the net pension liability as a percentage of its covered payroll	169.70%	102.58%	196.53%	186.78%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	78.88%	87.78%	75.48%	77.40%

Note: Information prior to 2014 was unavailable. Schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

Amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the Council's measurement date which is the prior year-end.

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
0.26381344%	0.25446283%	0.23757584%	0.23488102%	0.20013330%	0.20013330%
$ 58,006,652	$ 60,448,191	$ 79,523,795	$ 64,914,244	$ 48,679,345	$ 57,986,517
$ 30,436,207	$ 27,978,693	$ 25,095,421	$ 25,779,607	$ 20,448,092	$ 17,486,831
190.58%	216.05%	316.89%	251.80%	238.06%	331.60%
77.31%	75.30%	66.80%	72.10%	74.70%	69.30%

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO

SCHEDULES OF REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

SCHEDULE OF COUNCIL PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS
SCHOOL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM (SERS) OF OHIO

LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS

	2023	**2022**	**2021**	**2020**
Contractually required contribution	$ 5,587,130	$ 4,793,025	$ 4,354,986	$ 4,589,794
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	(5,587,130)	(4,793,025)	(4,354,986)	(4,589,794)
Contribution deficiency (excess)	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Council's covered payroll	$ 39,908,071	$ 34,235,893	$ 31,107,043	$ 32,784,243
Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
$ 4,065,642	$ 3,522,408	$ 3,452,461	$ 3,142,671	$ 2,730,296	$ 2,793,491
(4,065,642)	(3,522,408)	(3,452,461)	(3,142,671)	(2,730,296)	(2,793,491)
$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
$ 30,115,867	$ 26,091,911	$ 24,660,436	$ 22,447,650	$ 20,715,448	$ 20,155,058
13.50%	13.50%	14.00%	14.00%	13.18%	13.86%

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO

SCHEDULES OF REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

SCHEDULE OF COUNCIL PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS
STATE TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM (STRS) OF OHIO

LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS

	2023	2022	2021	2020
Contractually required contribution	$ 8,269,905	$ 7,038,457	$ 5,268,334	$ 4,847,184
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	(8,269,905)	(7,038,457)	(5,268,334)	(4,847,184)
Contribution deficiency (excess)	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Council's covered payroll	$ 59,070,750	$ 50,274,693	$ 37,630,957	$ 34,622,743
Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

2019		2018		2017		2016		2015		2014	
$	4,646,976	$	4,261,069	$	3,917,017	$	3,513,359	$	3,609,145	$	2,658,252
	(4,646,976)		(4,261,069)		(3,917,017)		(3,513,359)		(3,609,145)		(2,658,252)
$	-	$	-	$	-	$	-	$	-	$	-
$	33,192,686	$	30,436,207	$	27,978,693	$	25,095,421	$	25,779,607	$	20,448,092
	14.00%		14.00%		14.00%		14.00%		14.00%		13.00%

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO

SCHEDULES OF REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

SCHEDULE OF THE COUNCIL'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF
THE NET OPEB LIABILITY
SCHOOL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM (SERS) OF OHIO

LAST SEVEN FISCAL YEARS

	2023	2022	2021	2020
Council's proportion of the net OPEB liability	0.96465530%	0.92549390%	0.94783000%	0.88867170%
Council's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	$ 13,543,861	$ 17,515,731	$ 20,599,448	$ 22,348,224
Council's covered payroll	$ 34,235,893	$ 31,107,043	$ 32,784,243	$ 30,115,867
Council's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability as a percentage of its covered payroll	39.56%	56.31%	62.83%	74.21%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability	30.34%	24.08%	18.17%	15.57%

Note: Information prior to 2017 was unavailable. Schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

Amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the Council's measurement date which is the prior year-end.

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

	2019	2018	2017
	0.79752520%	0.75118110%	0.71577492%
	$ 22,125,503	$ 20,159,727	$ 20,402,233
	$ 26,091,911	$ 24,660,436	$ 22,447,650
	84.80%	81.75%	90.89%
	13.57%	12.46%	11.49%

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO

SCHEDULES OF REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

SCHEDULE OF THE COUNCIL'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF
THE NET OPEB LIABILITY/ASSET
STATE TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM (STRS) OF OHIO

LAST SEVEN FISCAL YEARS

	2023	2022	2021	2020
Council's proportion of the net OPEB liability/asset	0.38378123%	0.30190051%	0.28120886%	0.28034998%
Council's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability/(asset)	$ (9,937,371)	$ (6,365,326)	$ (4,942,244)	$ (4,643,268)
Council's covered payroll	$ 50,274,693	$ 37,630,957	$ 34,622,743	$ 33,192,686
Council's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability/asset as a percentage of its covered payroll	19.77%	16.92%	14.27%	13.99%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability/asset	230.73%	174.73%	182.10%	174.70%

Note: Information prior to 2017 was unavailable. Schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

Amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the Council's measurement date which is the prior year-end.

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

	2019	2018	2017
	0.26381344%	0.25446283%	0.23757584%
	$ (4,239,212)	$ 9,928,201	$ 12,705,618
	$ 30,436,207	$ 27,978,693	$ 25,095,421
	13.93%	35.48%	50.63%
	176.00%	47.10%	37.30%

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO

SCHEDULES OF REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

SCHEDULE OF COUNCIL OPEB CONTRIBUTIONS
SCHOOL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM (SERS) OF OHIO

LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS

	2023	2022	2021	2020
Contractually required contribution	$ 734,977	$ 606,882	$ 584,968	$ 515,066
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	(734,977)	(606,882)	(584,968)	(515,066)
Contribution deficiency (excess)	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Council's covered payroll	$ 39,908,071	$ 34,235,893	$ 31,107,043	$ 32,784,243
Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll	1.84%	1.77%	1.88%	1.57%

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
$ 675,672	$ 553,486	$ 386,865	$ 325,217	$ 496,170	$ 298,139
(675,672)	(553,486)	(386,865)	(325,217)	(496,170)	(298,139)
$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
$ 30,115,867	$ 26,091,911	$ 24,660,436	$ 22,447,650	$ 20,715,448	$ 20,155,058
2.24%	2.12%	1.57%	1.45%	2.40%	1.48%

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO

SCHEDULES OF REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

SCHEDULE OF COUNCIL OPEB CONTRIBUTIONS
STATE TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM (STRS) OF OHIO

LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS

	2023	2022	2021	2020
Contractually required contribution	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	-	-	-	-
Contribution deficiency (excess)	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Council's covered payroll	$ 59,070,750	$ 50,274,693	$ 37,630,957	$ 34,622,743
Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 204,802
-	-	-	-	-	(204,802)
$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
$ 33,192,686	$ 30,436,207	$ 27,978,693	$ 25,095,421	$ 25,779,607	$ 20,448,092
0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1.00%

PENSION

SCHOOL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM (SERS) OF OHIO

Changes in benefit terms:

- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2014.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2015.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2016.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2017.
- For fiscal year 2018, SERS changed from a fixed 3% annual increase to a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) based on the changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI-W), with a cap of 2.5% and a floor of 0%.
- For 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.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts previously reported for fiscal year 2020.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts previously reported for fiscal year 2021.
- For fiscal year 2022, SERS changed from a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) of 2.5% to 2.0%.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2023.

Changes in assumptions:

- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2014.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2015.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2016.
- For fiscal year 2017, the following changes of assumptions affected the total pension liability since the prior measurement date: (a) the assumed rate of inflation was reduced from 3.25% to 3.00%, (b) payroll growth assumption was reduced from 4.00% to 3.50%, (c) assumed real wage growth was reduced from 0.75% to 0.50%, (d) rates of withdrawal, retirement and disability were updated to reflect recent experience, (e) 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, (f) 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, (g) 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 (h) the discount rate was reduced from 7.75% to 7.50%.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2018.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2019.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2020.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2021.
- For fiscal year 2022, the following changes of assumptions affected the total pension liability since the prior measurement date: (a) wage inflation decreased from 3.00% to 2.40%, (b) future salary increases changed from 3.50%-18.20% to 3.25%-13.58%, (c) investment rate of return decreased from 7.50% to 7.00%, (d) discount rate decreased from 7.50% to 7.00% and (e) mortality tables changed from the RP-2014 Blue Collar mortality table to the PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weighted Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table.

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

(Continued)

PENSION (CONTINUED)

STATE TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM (STRS) OF OHIO

Changes in benefit terms :

- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2014.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2015.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2016.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2017.
- For fiscal year 2018, STRS decreased the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) to zero.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from amounts previously reported for fiscal year 2019.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from amounts previously reported for fiscal year 2020.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from amounts previously reported for fiscal year 2021.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from amounts previously reported for fiscal year 2022.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from amounts previously reported for fiscal year 2023.

Changes in assumptions :

- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2014.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2015.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2016.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2017.
- For fiscal year 2018, the following changes of assumption affected the total pension liability since the prior measurement date: (a) the long-term expected rate of return was reduced from 7.75% to 7.45%, (b) the inflation assumption was lowered from 2.75% to 2.50%, (c) the payroll growth assumption was lowered to 3.00%, (d) 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, (e) the healthy and disabled mortality assumptions were updated to the RP-2014 mortality tables with generational improvement scale MP-2016 and (f) rates of retirement, termination and disability were modified to better reflect anticipated future experience.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2019.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2020.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2021.
- For fiscal year 2022, the following changes of assumption affected the total pension liability since the prior measurement date: (a) the long-term expected rate of return was reduced from 7.45% to 7.00% and (b) the discount rate of return was reduced from 7.45% to 7.00%.
- For fiscal year 2023, the following changes of assumption affected the total pension liability since the prior measurement date: (a) 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%.

OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB)

SCHOOL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM (SERS) OF OHIO

Changes in benefit terms :

- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2017.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2018.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2019.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2020.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2021.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2022.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2023.

(Continued)

SCHOOL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM (SERS) OF OHIO (CONTINUED)

Changes in assumptions:

- For fiscal year 2017, the following changes of assumptions affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date: (a) assumed rate of inflation was reduced from 3.25% to 3.00%, (b) payroll growth assumption was reduced from 4.00% to 3.50%, (c) assumed real wage growth was reduced from 0.75% to 0.50%, (d) rates of withdrawal, retirement, and disability were updated to reflect recent experience, (e) mortality among active members was updated to the following: RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with fully generational projection and a five-year age set-back for both males and females, (f) 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, (g) mortality among disabled members was updated to the following: 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.

- For fiscal year 2018, the following changes of assumptions affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date: (a) assumed rate of inflation was reduced from 3.25% to 3.00%, (b) payroll growth assumption was reduced from 4.00% to 3.50%, (c) assumed real wage growth was reduced from 0.75% to 0.50%, (d) rates of withdrawal, retirement, and disability were updated to reflect recent experience, (e) mortality among active members was updated to the following: RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with fully generational projection and a five-year age set-back for both males and females, (f) 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, (g) mortality among disabled members was updated to the following: 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, (h) the municipal bond index rate increased from 2.92% to 3.56% and (i) the single equivalent interest rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation increased from 2.98% to 3.63%.
- For fiscal year 2019, the following changes of assumptions affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date: (a) the discount rate increased from 3.63% to 3.70%, (b) the health care cost trend rates for Medicare were changed from a range of 5.50%-5.00% to a range of 5.375%-4.75% and Pre-Medicare were changed from a range of 7.50%-5.00% to a range of 7.25%-4.75%, (c) the municipal bond index rate increased from 3.56% to 3.62% and (d) the single equivalent interest rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation increased from 3.63% to 3.70%.
- For fiscal year 2020, the following changes of assumptions affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date: (a) the discount rate decreased from 3.70% to 3.22%, (b) the health care cost trend rates for Medicare were changed from a range of 5.375%-4.75% to a range of 5.25%-4.75% and Pre-Medicare were changed from a range of 7.25%-4.75% to a range of 7.00%-4.75%, (c) the municipal bond index rate decreased from 3.62% to 3.13% and (d) the single equivalent interest rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation decreased from 3.70% to 3.22%.
- For fiscal year 2021, the following changes of assumptions affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date: (a) the discount rate decreased from 3.22% to 2.63% and (b) the municipal bond index rate decreased from 3.13% to 2.45%, and (c) the single equivalent interest rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation decreased from 3.22% to 2.63%.
- For fiscal year 2022, the following changes of assumptions affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date: (a) wage inflation decreased from 3.00% to 2.40%, (b) future salary increases changed from 3.50%-18.20% to 3.25%-13.58%, (c) investment rate of return decreased from 7.50% to 7.00%, (d) discount rate decreased from 7.50% to 7.00% and (e) mortality tables changed from the RP-2014 Blue Collar mortality table to the PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weighted Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table.

- For fiscal year 2023, the following changes of assumptions affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date: (a) municipal bond index rate went from 1.92% to 3.69%, (b) single equivalent interest rate when from 2.27% to 4.08% and (c) 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%.

(Continued)

STATE TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM (STRS) OF OHIO

Changes in benefit terms :

- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts previously reported for fiscal year 2017.
- For fiscal year 2018, STRS reduced the subsidy multiplier for non-Medicare benefit recipients from 2.1% to 1.9% per year of service. Medicare Part B premium reimbursements were discontinued for certain survivors and beneficiaries and all remaining Medicare Part B premium reimbursements will be discontinued beginning January 2019.
- For fiscal year 2019, STRS increased the subsidy multiplier for non-Medicare benefit recipients from 1.9% to 1.944% per year of service effective January 1, 2019. The non-Medicare frozen subsidy base premium was increased January 1, 2019 and all remaining Medicare Part B premium reimbursements will be discontinued beginning January 1, 2020.
- For fiscal year 2020, STRS increased the subsidy percentage from 1.944% to 1.984% 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.
- For fiscal year 2021, 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.
- For fiscal year 2022, the non-Medicare subsidy percentage was increased effective January 1, 2022 from 2.055% to 2.100%. 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 CY2022. The Part B monthly reimbursement elimination date was postponed indefinitely.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts previously reported for fiscal year 2023.

Changes in assumptions :

- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2017.
- For fiscal year 2018, the following changes of assumptions affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date: (a) the discount rate was increased from 3.26% to 4.13% based on the methodology defined under GASB Statement No. 74, Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans (OPEB), (b) the long term expected rate of return was reduced from 7.75% to 7.45%, (c) valuation year per capita health care costs were updated, and the salary scale was modified, (d) 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 and (e) the assumed mortality, disability, retirement, withdrawal and future health care cost trend rates were modified along with the portion of rebated prescription drug costs.
- For fiscal year 2019, the following changes of assumptions affected the total OPEB liability/asset since the prior measurement date: (a) 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) and (b) decrease in health care cost trend rates from 6.00%-11.00% initial; 4.50% ultimate down to Medical Pre-Medicare 6.00% and Medicare 5.00% initial; 4.00% ultimate and Prescription Drug Pre-Medicare 8.00% and Medicare (5.23%) initial; 4.00% ultimate.
- For fiscal year 2020, 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.

(Continued)

STATE TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM (STRS) OF OHIO (CONTINUED)

Changes in assumptions (continued) :

- For fiscal year 2021, 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.
- For fiscal year 2022, the following changes of assumption affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date: (a) the long-term expected rate of return was reduced from 7.45% to 7.00%, (b) the discount rate of return was reduced from 7.45% to 7.00% and (c) 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.

- For fiscal year 2023, the following changes of assumption affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date: (a) 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% and (b) 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.

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER

88 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
ContactUs@ohioauditor.gov
(800) 282-0370

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

Educational Service Center Council of Governments
Franklin County
2080 Citygate Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43219

To the Governing Board:

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 business-type activities and remaining fund information of the Educational Service Center Council of Governments, Franklin County, (the Council), and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Council's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated March 22, 2024.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Council's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council'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 Council's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

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

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

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

Purpose of This Report

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

Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

March 22, 2024

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

FRANKLIN 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