

**MERCER COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT
AUDIT REPORT
JUNE 30, 2024**

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WHITE AND COMPANY, P.S.C.

Certified Public Accountants
219 South Proctor Knott Avenue
Lebanon, Kentucky 40033
(270) 692-2102
Fax (270) 692-2101

Charles M. White, CPA
Stephanie A. Abell, CPA

Email: charles.white@whitecpas.com

November 8, 2024

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Members of the Board of Education
Mercer County School District
Harrodsburg, Kentucky

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Mercer County School District as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Mercer County School District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Mercer County School District, as of June 30, 2024, and the respective changes in financial position, and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, *Appendix I to the Independent Auditor's Contract – Audit Extension Request*, *Appendix II to the Independent Auditor's Contract – Instructions for Submission of the Audit Contract, Audit Acceptance Statement, AFR and Balance Sheet, Statement of Certification, and Audit Report*. 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 Mercer County School District and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these 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 Mercer County School District's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Financial Statement

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards 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 judgement made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and Government Auditing Standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgement and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risk 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 Mercer County School District's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Mercer County School District's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

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

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis, budgetary comparison information, schedules of the district's proportionate share of net pension liabilities, and the schedules of the district's proportionate share of net other post-employment benefits on pages 4 through 11, 54 through 57, and 59 through 62 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for

consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Mercer County School District's basic financial statements. The accompanying combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements, the statement of receipts, disbursements and fund balance – High School Activity Fund, and the schedule of expenditures of federal awards, as required by Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*, are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements and the schedule of expenditures of federal awards are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated November 8, 2024 on our consideration of Mercer County School District's internal control over financial reporting and on 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 Mercer County School District's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering Mercer County School District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Sincerely,

White and Company, P.S.C.

Certified Public Accountants

MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A)
Year Ended June 30, 2024

As management of the Mercer County School District (District), we offer readers of the District's financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of the District for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. We encourage readers to consider the information presented here in conjunction with additional information found within the body of the financial statements.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- The General Fund's beginning fund balance was \$6,965,946. The ending fund balance was \$8,557,759. General fund revenues and other financing sources showed a decrease of \$1,845,939 and expenditures and other financing uses showed a decrease of \$2,089,753 as compared with the prior year. The General Fund transferred \$48,440 to the Special Revenue Fund for the technology grant match. The General Fund received \$394,048 from the Building Fund to offset General Fund debt payments, \$122,507 from Capital Outlay specifically for debt payments, \$106,523 from the Food Service Fund for Indirect Costs, and \$78,408 from the Special Revenue funds for Indirect Costs.
- The District had \$44.6 million in revenue and \$41.9 million in expenses.
- The District increased the total amount due on bonds by \$33.95 million with the addition of the New Elementary School Project bonding in fiscal year 2024. Bond payments for fiscal year 2024 totaled \$2.61 million in principal payments and \$0.96 million in interest payments, totaling \$3.57 million. With current bond obligations, the amount of restricted bond payments including interest due in fiscal year 2025 totals \$4.7 million.
- The District's total net position increased \$4.65 million to \$19.56 million. Current assets increased by \$32.9 million, non-current assets increased by \$1.8 million, and total liabilities increased by \$26.0 million as compared to the prior year.

OVERVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

This discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to the District's basic financial statements. The District's basic financial statements comprise three components: 1) district-wide financial statements, 2) fund financial statements, and 3) notes to the financial statements. This report also contains other supplementary information in addition to the basic financial statements themselves.

District-wide financial statements - The district-wide financial statements are designed to provide readers with a broad overview of the District's finances, in a manner similar to a private-sector business.

The statement of net position presents information on all of the District's assets and liabilities, with the difference between the two reported as net position. Over time, increases or decreases in net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the district is improving or deteriorating.

The statement of activities presents information showing how the District's net position changed during the most recent fiscal year. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported in this statement for some items that will only result in cash flows in future fiscal periods.

The district-wide financial statements outline functions of the District that are principally supported by property taxes and intergovernmental revenues (governmental activities). The governmental activities of the District include instruction, support services, operation and maintenance of plant, student transportation and operation of non-instructional services. Fixed assets and related debt are also supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues.

The district-wide financial statements can be found on pages 11 - 12 of this report.

Fund financial statements. A fund is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. This is a state mandated uniform system and chart of accounts for all Kentucky public school districts utilizing the MUNIS administrative software. The District uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. All of the funds of the District can be divided into three categories: governmental, proprietary funds and fiduciary funds. Fiduciary funds are trust funds established by benefactors to aid in student education, welfare and teacher support. The only proprietary funds are our day care and food service operations. All other activities of the district are included in the governmental funds.

The basic governmental fund financial statements can be found on pages 13 - 19 of this report.

Notes to the financial statements. The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the district-wide and fund financial statements. The notes to the financial statements can be found on pages 20 - 53 of this report.

DISTRICT-WIDE FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Net position may serve over time as a useful indicator of a government's financial position. In the case of the District, assets and deferred outflows exceeded liabilities and deferred inflows by \$19.6 million as of June 30, 2024.

The largest portion of the District's net position reflects its investment in capital assets (e.g., land and improvements, buildings and improvements, vehicles, furniture and equipment), less any related debt used to acquire those assets that are still outstanding. The District uses these capital assets to provide services to its students; consequently, these assets are not available for future spending. Although the District's investment in its capital assets is reported net of related debt, it should be noted that the resources needed to repay this debt must be provided from other sources, since the capital assets themselves cannot be used to liquidate these liabilities.

The District's financial position is the product of several financial transactions including the net results of activities, the acquisition and payment of debt, the acquisition and disposal of capital assets, and the depreciation of capital assets.

Net Position for the period ending June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2023

A comparison of June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2023 government wide net position is as follows:

	Governmental Activities		Business - Type Activities		Total Primary Government	
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Current and Other Assets	41,714,688	8,879,724	2,506,653	2,429,716	44,221,341	11,309,440
Capital Assets	53,970,542	52,996,058	821,607	593,016	54,792,149	53,589,074
Deferred Outflows	5,860,316	6,834,727	581,061	497,705	6,441,377	7,332,432
Total Assets and Def Outflows	101,545,546	68,710,509	3,909,321	3,520,437	105,454,867	72,230,946
Current Liabilities	4,735,418	4,040,445	33,370	19,000	4,768,788	4,059,445
Non-Current Liabilities	72,369,332	46,653,189	1,096,474	1,527,249	73,465,806	48,180,438
Deferred Inflows	6,911,773	4,741,502	752,107	340,041	7,663,880	5,081,543
Total Liabilities and Def Inflows	84,016,523	55,435,136	1,881,951	1,886,290	85,898,474	57,321,426
Net Position						
Net Investment in Capital Assets	(7,979,620)	21,693,696	821,607	593,016	(7,158,013)	22,286,712
Restricted	31,871,569	1,019,491	1,332,686	1,204,893	33,204,255	2,224,384
Unrestricted	(6,362,926)	(9,437,814)	(126,923)	(163,762)	(6,489,849)	(9,601,576)
Total Net Position	\$17,529,023	\$13,275,373	\$2,027,370	\$1,634,147	\$19,556,393	\$14,909,520

The following table presents a comparison of revenues, expenses and changes in net position for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2023.

	Governmental Activities		Business – Type Activities		Total Primary Government	
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
REVENUES						
Program revenues						
Charges for services	245,182	32,227	132,677	136,726	377,859	168,953
Operating grants and contributions	6,066,282	5,797,768	2,998,827	2,612,848	9,065,109	8,410,616
Capital grants	246,324	80,140	0	0	246,324	80,140
General revenues						
Property taxes	10,304,931	9,766,408	0	0	10,304,931	9,766,408
Motor vehicle taxes	1,220,165	1,127,429	0	0	1,220,165	1,127,429
Utility Taxes	1,662,497	1,810,154	0	0	1,662,497	1,810,154
Other taxes	7,889	7,195	0	0	7,889	7,195
Investment earnings	596,688	66,555	76,812	11,653	673,500	78,208
State and formula grants	19,797,324	22,323,925	0	0	19,797,324	22,323,925
Miscellaneous	476,152	809,520	0	1,085	476,152	810,605
Fund Transfer	106,523	88,563	(106,523)	(88,563)	0	0
Gain (Loss) on Sale of Assets	1,412	10,099	214	0	1,626	10,099
Total revenues	40,731,369	41,919,983	3,102,007	2,673,749	43,833,376	44,593,732
EXPENSES						
Program Activities						
Instructional	22,626,415	25,371,643	0	0	22,626,415	25,371,643
Student support	1,144,790	1,418,338	0	0	1,144,790	1,418,338
Instructional staff Support	1,140,527	1,246,542	0	0	1,140,527	1,246,542
District administrative support	1,149,977	1,204,683	0	0	1,149,977	1,204,683
School administrative support	1,870,481	2,418,151	0	0	1,870,481	2,418,151
Business support	859,219	886,427	0	0	859,219	886,427
Plant operations and maintenance	3,229,929	2,783,013	0	0	3,229,929	2,783,013
Student transportation	2,716,509	2,553,502	0	0	2,716,509	2,553,502
Community service activities	427,155	439,815	0	0	427,155	439,815
Other	10,341	22,437	0	0	10,341	22,437
Interest costs	1,302,376	1,097,682	0	0	1,302,376	1,097,682
Business-type Activities						
Food service	0	0	2,619,109	2,339,389	2,619,109	2,339,389
Day Care	0	0	89,675	97,470	89,675	97,470
Total expenses	36,477,719	39,442,233	2,708,784	2,436,859	39,186,503	41,879,092
Change in net position	4,253,650	2,477,750	393,223	236,890	4,646,873	2,714,640

On-behalf amounts are included in the above figures. On-behalf payments are payments the state makes on behalf of employees to the various agencies for health and life insurance, benefits, administration fees, technology and debt service. The total on-behalf payments for 2024 and 2023 were \$8,108,171 and \$9,655,329 respectively.

Governmental Activities

For the governmental program expenses, instructional expenses comprise 62% of total expenses, support services equate to 33%, and interest and other expenses make up the remaining 5% of the total.

The cost of program services and the charges for services and grants offsetting those services are shown on the Statement of Activities. The Statement of activities identifies the net cost of services supported by tax revenue and unrestricted intergovernmental revenues (state entitlements).

	Governmental Activities Total Cost of Services		Governmental Activities Net Cost of Services	
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Instructional	22,626,415	25,371,643	18,058,956	21,215,465
Support Services	12,127,773	12,533,093	10,619,058	11,267,087
Other	427,155	439,815	(86)	1,973
Interest Costs	1,302,376	1,097,682	1,242,003	1,047,573
Total Expenses	36,477,719	39,442,233	29,919,931	33,532,098

Business-Type Activities

The business type activities consist of the food service program and the daycare program. The food service program had total revenues of \$3,082,016 and expenses of \$2,725,632 for fiscal year 2024. These revenues were made up of \$50,732 in lunchroom sales, \$5,107 in operating revenues, \$2,949,365 federal and state operating grants, donated commodities, and other, and \$76,812 earnings on investments. The daycare program had total revenues of \$126,514 and expenses of \$89,675 for fiscal year 2024. These revenues were made up of \$81,945 in tuition payments and \$44,569 in state revenue.

These business-type activities receive no support from tax revenues, and, as such, the District will continue to monitor these activities and make the necessary adjustments to the operations of these activities.

The School District's Funds

The information relative to the School District's Funds starts on page 13. These funds use the modified accrual basis of accounting to account for each fund's revenues and expenses. The combined revenue and other financing sources for all governmental funds for 2024 was \$78,832,810 and expenditures and other financing uses were \$46,388,919.

General Fund Budgetary Highlights

The District's budget is based on accounting for certain transactions on the cash basis for receipts and expenditures and encumbrances and is prepared according to Kentucky law. The Kentucky Department of Education requires a zero-based budget with any remaining fund balance to be shown as a contingency expense in the budgeting process.

The most significant budgeted fund is the General Fund. The general fund had budgeted revenues of \$21,628,650 plus a beginning budgeted balance of \$6,100,000. Actual general fund revenues and other sources were \$30,218,840. Budgeted expenditures were \$24,723,387 and budgeted contingency was \$3,005,263 for a total of \$27,728,650 compared to actual expenditures and other uses of \$28,578,587. These actuals include the state on-behalf payments in the amount of \$7,763,198 for the general fund, which were not budgeted.

Future Budgetary Implications

In Kentucky, the public schools fiscal year is July 1 – June 30; other programs, i.e. some federal programs operate on a different fiscal calendar, but are reflected in the District overall budget. By law, the budget must have a minimum 2% contingency. The District adopted a budget for 2023-2024 with a contingency above 2%. The District has also adopted a budget for 2024-2025 with a contingency above 2%.

The Board's obligation for contribution to the Kentucky Retirement System for classified employees had a contribution change of 3.45% for FY 2024 at 23.34% from 26.79% in FY 2023. The Board's obligation for contribution to the Kentucky Retirement System for classified employees has a decrease for FY 2025 from 23.34% to 19.71%. The Kentucky Teachers Retirement implemented changes in tiers starting in January 2022. The following rates now apply for the employer:

Tier 1 = 3% and 16.105% for federal grants matching

Tier 2 = 3% and 16.105% for federal grants matching

Tier 3 = 3% and 17.105% for federal grants matching

Tier 4 = 3% and 13.75% for federal grants matching

The SEEK base funding had an increase of \$100 per pupil and totals \$4,200 per pupil in FY 2023-2024. The General Fund will be closely monitored to support District staffing.

CAPITAL ASSET AND DEBT ADMINISTRATION

Capital Assets

At the end of the 2024 fiscal year, the District had invested \$54,79 million in a broad range of capital assets, including equipment, buses, buildings, and land net of accumulated depreciation and amortization. This amount represents a net increase of \$1.2 million. Depreciation and amortization expense for the year was \$2.87 million and capital additions were \$4.19 million.

The following table shows capital assets net of depreciation for the governmental activities, business-type activities and total primary government for fiscal years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023.

	Governmental Activities (Net of Depreciation & Amortization)		Business - Type Activities (Net of Depreciation & Amortization)		Total Primary Government (Net of Depreciation & Amortization)	
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Land	1,821,384	1,921,384	0	0	1,821,384	1,921,384
Construction In Progress	3,016,761	6,657,118	0	0	3,016,761	6,657,118
Buildings and Improvements	45,851,643	41,174,040	25,964	0	45,877,607	41,174,040
Technology	577,341	930,280	0	0	577,341	930,280
Vehicles	2,206,757	1,925,706	0	0	2,206,757	1,925,706
General Equipment	328,148	387,530	795,643	593,016	1,123,791	980,546
Intangible Right of Use Assets – Copiers	168,508	0	0	0	168,508	0
Total	53,970,542	52,996,058	821,607	593,016	54,792,149	53,589,074

The table below shows the changes in capital assets for fiscal years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023.

	Governmental Activities		Business - Type Activities		Total Primary Government	
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Beginning Balance	52,996,058	47,579,725	593,016	586,667	53,589,074	48,166,392
Additions	3,881,156	7,669,993	305,708	61,170	4,186,864	7,731,163
Retirements	(117,664)	0	0	0	(117,664)	0
Depreciation & Amortization	(2,789,008)	(2,253,660)	(77,177)	(54,821)	(2,866,125)	(2,308,481)
Ending Balance	53,970,542	52,996,058	821,607	593,016	54,792,149	53,589,074

Long-Term Debt

At year-end the District had \$61,690,000 in outstanding bonds and \$1,045,413 in capital lease obligations. Bonded debt principal paid for the year ended June 30, 2024 was \$2,610,000. There was a new construction bond in the amount of \$33,950,000 added in fiscal year 2024. The District entered into a new lease agreement for copiers during fiscal year 2024, with \$186,200 additional in payments due by the end of the lease agreement. A total of \$2,916,708 is due within one year for principal payments on bonds, KSBIT, and copier lease obligations.

Contacting the District's Financial Management

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, taxpayers and other interested readers with a general overview of the District's finances and to demonstrate the District's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional financial information contact the District's Superintendent or Chief Financial Officer.

MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
JUNE 30, 2024

	GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES	BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES	TOTAL
ASSETS:			
Cash & Cash Equivalents - Note C	40,666,252	2,184,282	42,850,534
Accounts Receivable:			
Taxes - Current	339,868		339,868
Taxes - Delinquent	11,894		11,894
Accounts	8,498		8,498
Intergovernmental - State	6,905		6,905
Intergovernmental - Federal	681,271	278,335	959,606
Inventories for Consumption	0	44,036	44,036
Total Current Assets	41,714,688	2,506,653	44,221,341
Noncurrent Assets - Note F			
Intangible Right of Use Asset - Net of Amortization	168,508		168,508
Land	1,821,384		1,821,384
Buildings & Improvements	82,089,836	26,145	82,115,981
Furniture & Equipment	10,108,757	1,112,605	11,221,362
Construction in Progress	3,016,761		3,016,761
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(43,234,704)	(317,143)	(43,551,847)
Total Noncurrent Assets	53,970,542	821,607	54,792,149
TOTAL ASSETS	95,685,230	3,328,260	99,013,490
Deferred Outflows Related to Pensions	2,640,041	434,148	3,074,189
Deferred Outflows Related to Other Post Employment Benefits	3,029,503	146,913	3,176,416
Deferred Outflows Related to Advanced Bond Refundings	190,772		190,772
TOTAL DEFERRED OUTFLOWS	5,860,316	581,061	6,441,377
TOTAL ASSETS AND DEFERRED OUTFLOWS	101,545,546	3,909,321	105,454,867
LIABILITIES:			
Current Liabilities:			
Accounts Payable	400,211	33,370	433,581
Accrued Salaries & Payroll Liabilities	8,664		8,664
Accrued Sick Leave - Note A	157,754		157,754
Advances from Grantors	718,731		718,731
Bond Obligations - Note D	2,675,367		2,675,367
Lease Obligation - Copiers - Note E	39,457		39,457
KSBIT Obligation - Note E	201,884		201,884
Accrued Interest Payable	533,350		533,350
Total Current Liabilities	4,735,418	33,370	4,768,788
Noncurrent Liabilities:			
Bond Obligations - Note D	58,229,382		58,229,382
Lease Obligation - Copiers - Note E	132,069		132,069
KSBIT Obligation - Note E	672,003		672,003
Net Pension Liability	8,028,804	1,172,726	9,201,530
Net Other Post Employment Benefits Liability	4,799,267	(76,252)	4,723,015
Accrued Sick Leave - Note A	507,807	0	507,807
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	72,369,332	1,096,474	73,465,806
TOTAL LIABILITIES	77,104,750	1,129,844	78,234,594
Deferred Inflows Related to Pensions	1,778,640	262,315	2,040,955
Deferred Inflows Related to Other Post Employment Benefits	5,133,133	489,792	5,622,925
TOTAL DEFERRED INFLOWS	6,911,773	752,107	7,663,880
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND DEFERRED INFLOWS	84,016,523	1,881,951	85,898,474
NET POSITION:			
Net Investment in Capital Assets	(7,979,620)	821,607	(7,158,013)
Restricted for:			
Capital Projects	31,269,959		31,269,959
School Activities	525,646		525,646
Student Activities	74,235		74,235
SFCC Escrow	1,729		1,729
Food Service	0	1,332,686	1,332,686
Unrestricted	(6,362,926)	(126,923)	(6,489,849)
TOTAL NET POSITION	17,529,023	2,027,370	19,556,393
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET POSITION	101,545,546	3,909,321	105,454,867

See independent auditor's report and accompanying notes to financial statements.

MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

FUNCTION/PROGRAMS	EXPENSES	PROGRAM REVENUES			NET(EXPENSE) REVENUE AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION		
		CHARGES FOR SERVICES	OPERATING GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS	CAPITAL GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS	GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES	BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES	TOTAL
GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES:							
Instructional	22,626,415	240,536	4,326,923		(18,058,956)		(18,058,956)
Support Services:							
Student Support Services	1,144,790		53,472		(1,091,318)		(1,091,318)
Staff Support Services	1,140,527		320,291		(820,236)		(820,236)
District Administration	1,149,977				(1,149,977)		(1,149,977)
School Administration	1,870,481				(1,870,481)		(1,870,481)
Business Support Services	859,219				(859,219)		(859,219)
Plant Operation & Maintenance	3,229,929		154,432	199,211	(2,876,286)		(2,876,286)
Student Transportation	2,716,509	4,646	763,540		(1,948,323)		(1,948,323)
Food Service Operations	10,341		7,295		(3,046)		(3,046)
Community Service Operations	427,155		427,069		(86)		(86)
Interest on Long-Term Debt	1,302,376		13,260	47,113	(1,242,003)		(1,242,003)
TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES	36,477,719	245,182	6,066,282	246,324	(29,919,931)		(29,919,931)
BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES:							
Food Service	2,619,109	50,732	2,954,258			385,881	
Daycare	89,675	81,945	44,569			36,839	36,839
TOTAL BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES	2,708,784	132,677	2,998,827	0	0	422,720	36,839
TOTAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	39,186,503	377,859	9,065,109	246,324	(29,919,931)	422,720	(29,883,092)
GENERAL REVENUES:							
Taxes:							
Property					10,304,931		10,304,931
Motor Vehicle					1,220,165		1,220,165
Utility					1,662,497		1,662,497
Other					7,889		7,889
State Aid - Formula Grants					19,797,324		19,797,324
Investment Earnings					596,688	76,812	673,500
Fund Transfer (Expense)					106,523	(106,523)	0
Miscellaneous					476,152		476,152
Loss Compensation					1,412	214	1,626
TOTAL GENERAL REVENUES					34,173,581	(29,497)	34,144,084
CHANGE IN NET POSITION					4,253,650	393,223	4,646,873
NET POSITION - BEGINNING					13,275,373	1,634,147	14,909,520
NET POSITION - ENDING					17,529,023	2,027,370	19,556,393

See independent auditor's report and accompanying notes to financial statements.

MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BALANCE SHEET
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
JUNE 30, 2024

	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL REVENUE	CONSTRUCTION FUND	OTHER GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS	TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
ASSETS:					
Cash & Cash Equivalents	8,468,683	30,555	31,565,404	601,610	40,666,252
Accounts Receivable:					
Taxes - Current	339,868				339,868
Taxes - Delinquent	11,894				11,894
Accounts	8,498				8,498
Intergovernmental - State		6,905			6,905
Intergovernmental - Federal		681,271			681,271
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>8,828,943</u>	<u>718,731</u>	<u>31,565,404</u>	<u>601,610</u>	<u>41,714,688</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE:					
Liabilities:					
Accounts Payable	104,766		295,445		400,211
Accrued Salaries & Sick Leave	166,418				166,418
Advances from Grantors		718,731			718,731
Total Liabilities	<u>271,184</u>	<u>718,731</u>	<u>295,445</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,285,360</u>
Fund Balance:					
Restricted for:					
Capital Projects			31,269,959		31,269,959
School Activities				525,646	525,646
Student Activities				74,235	74,235
SFCC Escrow				1,729	1,729
Committed For:					
Site Based Carryforward	38,500				38,500
Accrued Sick Leave	507,807				507,807
Unassigned	8,011,452				8,011,452
Total Fund Balance	<u>8,557,759</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>31,269,959</u>	<u>601,610</u>	<u>40,429,328</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	<u>8,828,943</u>	<u>718,731</u>	<u>31,565,404</u>	<u>601,610</u>	<u>41,714,688</u>

See independent auditor's report and accompanying notes to financial statements.

MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
RECONCILIATION OF THE BALANCE SHEET - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
TO THE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
JUNE 30, 2024

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position are different because:

TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL FUND BALANCE		40,429,328
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported as assets in governmental funds.		
Intangible Right of Use Asset	206,336	
Accumulated Amortization	(37,828)	
Cost of Capital Assets	97,036,738	
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(43,234,704)</u>	53,970,542
Deferred Outflows Related to Bond Refundings are not current assets and therefore are not reported as assets in governmental funds.		
		190,772
Deferred Outflows Related to Pensions are not current assets and therefore are not reported as assets in governmental funds.		
		2,640,041
Deferred Outflows Related to Other Post Employment Benefits are not current assets and therefore are not reported as assets in governmental funds.		
		3,029,503
Long-term liabilities (including bonds payable) are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported as liabilities in the funds.		
Long-term liabilities at year end consist of:		
Bonds Payable	(61,690,000)	
Unamortized Bond Premiums	(98,618)	
Unamortized Bond Discounts	883,869	
Lease Obligation - Copiers	(171,526)	
KSBIT Obligation	(873,887)	
Accrued Interest on Bonds	(533,350)	
Net Pension Liability	(8,028,804)	
Net Other Post Employment Benefits Liability	(4,799,267)	
Accrued Sick Leave	<u>(507,807)</u>	(75,819,390)
Deferred Inflows Related to Other Post Employment Benefits are not current liabilities and therefore are not reported as liabilities in governmental funds.		
		(5,133,133)
Deferred Inflows Related to Pensions are not current liabilities and therefore are not reported as liabilities in governmental funds.		
		<u>(1,778,640)</u>
TOTAL NET POSITION - GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES		<u><u>17,529,023</u></u>

See independent auditor's report and accompanying notes to financial statements.

MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	GENERAL	SPECIAL REVENUE	CONSTRUCTION FUND	OTHER GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS	TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
REVENUES:					
Taxes:					
Property	7,755,126			2,549,805	10,304,931
Motor Vehicle	1,220,165				1,220,165
Utility	1,662,497				1,662,497
Other	7,889				7,889
Earnings on Investments	350,608	6,178	239,902		596,688
Intergovernmental - State	18,305,290	1,464,688		1,539,147	21,309,125
Intergovernmental - Federal	5,120	4,795,685			4,800,805
Other Sources	91,583	64,804		564,947	721,334
TOTAL REVENUES	29,398,278	6,331,355	239,902	4,653,899	40,623,434
EXPENDITURES:					
Instructional	17,254,346	4,327,793		499,548	22,081,687
Support Services:					
Student Support Services	1,129,658	53,483			1,183,141
Staff Support Services	841,171	320,355		22,095	1,183,621
District Administration	1,171,772				1,171,772
School Administration	2,004,927				2,004,927
Business Support Services	892,744				892,744
Plant Operation & Maintenance	2,789,631	154,503			2,944,134
Student Transportation	2,263,448	763,693		33,213	3,060,354
Food Service Operation	3,045	7,296			10,341
Community Service Operations		427,155			427,155
Facilities Acquisition, Construction & Improvements		199,211	2,705,194		2,904,405
Debt Service:					
Principal	209,846	34,638		2,610,000	2,854,484
Interest	17,999	13,260		963,178	994,437
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	28,578,587	6,301,387	2,705,194	4,128,034	41,713,202
EXCESS(DEFICIT) REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	819,691	29,968	(2,465,292)	525,865	(1,089,768)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES(USES):					
Proceeds from Sale of Assets	100,000				100,000
Loss Compensation	19,076				19,076
Bond Proceeds			33,950,000		33,950,000
Bond Discount			(641,940)		(641,940)
Operating Transfers In - Note N	701,486	48,440		3,390,374	4,140,300
Operating Transfers Out - Note N	(48,440)	(78,408)		(3,906,929)	(4,033,777)
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	772,122	(29,968)	33,308,060	(516,555)	33,533,659
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	1,591,813	0	30,842,768	9,310	32,443,891
FUND BALANCES - BEGINNING	6,965,946	0	427,191	592,300	7,985,437
FUND BALANCES - ENDING	8,557,759	0	31,269,959	601,610	40,429,328

See independent auditor's report and accompanying notes to financial statements.

MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES,
EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position are different because:

NET CHANGES - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS		32,443,891
<p>Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures because they use current financial resources. However, in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense. This is the amount by which capital exceeds depreciation expense for the year.</p>		
Amortization - Right of Use Assets - Copiers	(37,828)	
Depreciation Expense	(2,751,180)	
Capital Outlays	3,674,820	885,812
<p>Bond proceeds and financing leases are reported as financing sources in governmental funds and thus contribute to the change in fund balance. In the statement of net position, however, issuing debt increases long-term liabilities and does not affect the statement of activities. Similarly, repayment of principal is an expenditure in the governmental funds but reduces the liability in the statement of net position.</p>		
Lease Obligation Principal Paid	35,962	
KSBIT Obligation Principal Paid	208,521	
Principal Paid	2,610,000	
Bond Proceeds	(33,308,060)	(30,453,577)
<p>Generally, expenditures recognized in this fund financial statement are limited to only those that use current financial resources, but expenses are recognized in the statement of activities when they are incurred.</p>		
Amortization -Deferred Outflows from Advanced Bond Refundings	(113,188)	
Amortization - Bond Premiums	32,873	
Amortization - Bond Discounts	(20,760)	
District Pension Contributions	872,540	
Cost of Benefits Earned Net of Employee Contributions	(601,227)	
District Other Post Employment Benefits Contributions	485,565	
Cost of Benefits Earned Net of Employee Contributions - OPEB	934,348	
Accrued Interest Payable	(206,865)	
Accrued Sick Leave	111,902	1,495,188
<p>In the statement of activities the net gain on the sale/disposal of assets is reported in whereas in the governmental funds the proceeds from the sale increases financial resources. Thus the change in net position differs from change in fund balances by the cost of the asset sold.</p>		
Loss- Sale of Assets		(117,664)
CHANGES - NET POSITION GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS		4,253,650

See independent auditor's report and accompanying notes to financial statements.

MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
PROPRIETARY FUNDS
JUNE 30, 2024

	ENTERPRISE FUNDS		
	MAJOR FUND	NONMAJOR FUND	
	FOOD SERVICE	DAYCARE FUND	TOTAL
ASSETS:			
Current Assets:			
Cash & Cash Equivalents	2,145,254	39,028	2,184,282
Accounts Receivables	278,335		278,335
Inventories for Consumption	44,036		44,036
Total Current Assets	2,467,625	39,028	2,506,653
Noncurrent Assets:			
Buildings & Improvements	26,145		26,145
Furniture & Equipment	1,112,605		1,112,605
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(317,143)		(317,143)
Total Noncurrent Assets	821,607	0	821,607
TOTAL ASSETS	3,289,232	39,028	3,328,260
Deferred Outflows Related to Pensions	384,952	49,196	434,148
Deferred Outflows Related to Other Post Employment Benefits	128,002	18,911	146,913
TOTAL ASSETS AND DEFERRED OUTFLOWS	3,802,186	107,135	3,909,321
LIABILITIES:			
Current Liabilities:			
Account Payable	33,370	0	33,370
Total Current Liabilities	33,370	0	33,370
Noncurrent Liabilities:			
Net Pension Liability	1,025,500	147,226	1,172,726
Net Other Post Employment Benefits Liability	(73,084)	(3,168)	(76,252)
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	952,416	144,058	1,096,474
TOTAL LIABILITIES	985,786	144,058	1,129,844
Deferred Inflows Related to Pensions	229,659	32,656	262,315
Deferred Inflows Related to Other Post Employment Benefits	432,448	57,344	489,792
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND DEFERRED INFLOWS	1,647,893	234,058	1,881,951
Net Position:			
Net Investment in Capital Assets	821,607		821,607
Restricted	1,332,686		1,332,686
Unrestricted		(126,923)	(126,923)
Total Net Position	2,154,293	(126,923)	2,027,370
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET POSITION	3,802,186	107,135	3,909,321

See independent auditor's report and accompanying notes to financial statements.

MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION
PROPRIETARY FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	ENTERPRISE FUNDS		
	MAJOR FUND	NONMAJOR FUND	
	FOOD SERVICE	DAYCARE FUND	TOTAL
OPERATING REVENUES:			
Lunchroom Sales	50,732		50,732
Operating Revenues	5,107	81,945	87,052
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES	<u>55,839</u>	<u>81,945</u>	<u>137,784</u>
OPERATING EXPENSES:			
Salaries & Benefits	878,117	89,605	967,722
Contract Services	53,305		53,305
Materials & Supplies	1,597,372	70	1,597,442
Depreciation - Note F	77,117		77,117
Other Operating Expenses	13,198		13,198
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	<u>2,619,109</u>	<u>89,675</u>	<u>2,708,784</u>
OPERATING INCOME(LOSS)	(2,563,270)	(7,730)	(2,571,000)
NONOPERATING REVENUES(EXPENSES):			
Federal Grants	2,617,675		2,617,675
State Grants	187,654	44,569	232,223
Donated Commodities	126,322		126,322
Interest Income	76,812		76,812
Other Sources	17,714		17,714
Transfer Out to General Fund	(106,523)		(106,523)
TOTAL NONOPERATING REVENUE	<u>2,919,654</u>	<u>44,569</u>	<u>2,964,223</u>
INCOME(LOSS) BEFORE CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS	356,384	36,839	393,223
CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
CHANGE IN NET POSITION	356,384	36,839	393,223
TOTAL NET POSITION - BEGINNING	<u>1,797,909</u>	<u>(163,762)</u>	<u>1,634,147</u>
TOTAL NET POSITION - ENDING	<u><u>2,154,293</u></u>	<u><u>(126,923)</u></u>	<u><u>2,027,370</u></u>

See independent auditor's report and accompanying notes to financial statements.

MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
PROPRIETARY FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	MAJOR FUND FOOD SERVICE	NONMAJOR FUND DAYCARE	TOTAL
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:			
Cash Received from:			
Lunchroom Sales	50,732	-	50,732
Other Activities	5,107	81,945	87,052
Cash Paid to/for:			-
Employees	(825,765)	(86,070)	(911,835)
Supplies	(1,455,852)	(70)	(1,455,922)
Other Activities	(66,503)		(66,503)
Net Cash Used by Operating Activities	(2,292,281)	(4,195)	(2,296,476)
CASH FLOWS FROM NON-CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES:			
Transfer Out to General Fund	(106,523)	-	(106,523)
Federal Grants	2,604,283	-	2,604,283
State Grants	44,586	29,688	74,274
Local Grants & Other Sources	17,714	0	17,714
Net Cash Provided by Non-Capital and Related Financing Activities	2,560,060	29,688	2,589,748
CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES:			
Purchase of Capital Assets	(305,708)	-	(305,708)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Receipt of Interest Income	76,812	-	76,812
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	38,883	25,493	64,376
Balances, Beginning of Year	2,106,371	13,535	2,119,906
Balances, End of Year	2,145,254	39,028	2,184,282
RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING LOSS TO NET CASH USED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES:			
Operating Income (Loss)	(2,563,270)	(7,730)	(2,571,000)
Adjustments to Reconcile Operating Loss to Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities			
Depreciation	77,117	-	77,117
State On-Behalf Payments	143,068	14,881	157,949
Donated Commodities	126,322	-	126,322
Change in Assets, Deferred Outflows, Liabilities and Deferred Inflows:			
Deferred Outflows	(74,086)	(9,270)	(83,356)
Deferred Inflows	366,279	45,787	412,066
Net Pension Liability	(28,351)	(3,543)	(31,894)
Net Other Post Employment Benefits	(354,561)	(44,320)	(398,881)
Inventory	831	-	831
Accounts Payable	14,370	-	14,370
Net Cash Used by Operating Activities	(2,292,281)	(4,195)	(2,296,476)
Schedule of Non-Cash Transactions:			
Donated Commodities	126,322	-	126,322
State On-Behalf Payments	143,068	14,881	157,949

See independent auditor's report and accompanying notes to financial statements.

MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE A – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Reporting Entity

The Mercer County Board of Education (“Board”), a five-member group, is the level of government which has oversight responsibilities over all activities related to public elementary and secondary school education within the jurisdiction of Mercer County Board of Education (“District”). The District receives funding from local, state, and federal government sources and must comply with the commitment requirements of these funding source entities. However, the District is not included in any other governmental “reporting entity” as defined in Section 2100, Codification of Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards. Board members are elected by the public and have decision-making authority, the power to designate management, the responsibility to develop policies which may influence operations, and primary accountability for fiscal matters.

The District, for financial purposes, includes all of the funds and account groups relevant to the operation of the Mercer County Board of Education. The financial statements presented herein do not include funds of groups and organizations, which although associated with the school system, have not originated within the Board itself such as Band Boosters, Parent-Teacher Associations, etc.

The financial statements of the District include those of separately administered organizations that are controlled by or dependent on the Board. Control or dependence is determined on the basis of budget adoption, funding, and appointment of the respective governing board.

Based on the foregoing criteria, the financial statements of the following organizations are included in the accompanying financial statements:

Mercer County Board of Education Finance Corporation – In a prior year, the Board of Education resolved to authorize the establishment of the Mercer County School District Finance Corporation (a non-profit, non-stock, public and charitable corporation organized under the School Bond Act and KRS 273 and KRS Section 58.180) (the “Corporation”) as an agency for the District for financing the costs of school building facilities. The members of the Board also comprise the Corporation’s Board of Directors.

Basis of Presentation

Government-Wide Financial Statements – The statement of net position and the statement of activities display information about the District as a whole. These statements include the financial activities of the primary government, except for fiduciary funds. The statements distinguish between those activities of the District that are governmental and those that are considered business-type activities.

The government-wide statements are prepared using the economic resources measurement focus. This is the same approach used in the preparation of the proprietary fund financial statements but differs from the manner in which governmental fund financial statements are prepared. Governmental fund financial statements therefore include reconciliation with brief explanations to better identify the relationship between the government-wide statements and the statements for governmental funds.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

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

Fund Financial Statements – Fund financial statements report detailed information about the District. The focus of governmental and enterprise fund financial statements is on major funds rather than reporting funds by type. Each major fund is presented in a separate column. Nonmajor funds are aggregated and presented in a single column. Fiduciary funds are reported by fund type.

The accounting and reporting treatment applied to a fund is determined by its measurement focus. All governmental fund types are accounted for using a flow of current financial resources measurement focus. The financial statements for governmental funds are a balance sheet, which generally includes only current assets and current liabilities, and a statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances, which reports on the changes in net total assets. Proprietary funds and fiduciary funds are reported using the economic resources measurement focus. The statement of cash flows provides information about how the District finances and meets the cash flow needs of its proprietary activities.

The District has the following funds:

I. Governmental Fund Types

- A. The General Fund is the main operating fund of the Board. It accounts for financial resources used for general types of operations. This is a budgeted fund, and any fund balances are considered as resources available for use. This is a major fund of the District.
- B. The Special Revenue (Grant) Funds account for proceeds of specific revenue sources (other than expendable trust or major capital projects) that are legally restricted to disbursements for specified purposes. It includes federal financial programs where unused balances are returned to the grantor at the close of the specified project periods as well as the state grant programs. Project accounting is employed to maintain integrity for the various sources of funds. The separate projects of federally funded grant programs are identified in the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards and related notes. This is a major fund of the District.
- C. Capital Project Funds are used to account for financial resources to be used for the acquisition or construction of major capital facilities and equipment (other than those financed by Proprietary Fund).
 1. The Support Education Excellence in Kentucky (SEEK) Capital Outlay Fund receives those funds designated by the state as Capital Outlay funds and is restricted for use in financing projects identified in the District's facility plan.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

2. The Facility Support Program of Kentucky (FSPK) accounts for funds generated by the building tax levy required to participate in the School Facilities Construction Commission's construction funding and state matching funds, where applicable. Funds may be used for projects identified in the District's facility plan.
 3. The Construction Fund accounts for proceeds from sales of bonds and other revenues to be used for authorized construction.
- D. Debt Service Funds are used to account for the accumulation of resources for, and the payment of, general long-term debt principal and interest and related cost; and for the payment of interest on generally obligation notes payable, as required by Kentucky law.

II. Proprietary Fund Types (Enterprise Fund)

The Food Service Fund is used to account for school food service activities, including the National School Lunch Program, which is conducted in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Amounts have been recorded for in-kind contribution of commodities from the USDA. The Food Service Fund is a major fund.

The District applies all GASB pronouncements to proprietary funds as well as the Financial Accounting Standards Board pronouncements issued on or before November 30, 1989, unless those pronouncements conflict with or contradict GASB pronouncements.

III. Fiduciary Fund Type (Private Purpose Trust Funds)

- A. The Private Purpose Trust funds are used to report trust arrangements under which principal and income benefit individuals, private organization, or other governments.

Basis of Accounting

Basis of accounting determines when transactions are recorded in the financial records and reported on the financial statements. Government-wide financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. Governmental funds use the modified accrual basis of accounting. Proprietary and fiduciary funds also use the accrual basis of accounting.

Revenues – Exchange and Nonexchange Transactions – Revenues resulting from exchange transactions, in which each party receives essentially equal value, is recorded on the accrual basis when the exchange takes place. On a modified accrual basis, revenues are recorded in the fiscal year in which the resources are measurable and available. Available means that the resources will be collected within the current fiscal year or are expected to be collected soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current fiscal year. For the District, available means expected to be received within 60 days of the fiscal year-end.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

Proprietary Fund operating revenues are defined as revenues received from the direct purchases of products and services (i.e. food service). Non-operating revenues are not related to direct purchases of products; for the District, these revenues are typically investment income and state and federal grant revenues.

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

Deferred Revenue – Deferred revenue arises when assets are recognized before revenue recognition criteria have been satisfied.

Grants and entitlements received before the eligibility requirements are met are recorded as deferred revenue.

Expenses/Expenditures – On the accrual basis of accounting, expenses are recognized at the time they are incurred. The fair value of donated commodities used during the year is reported in the statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position as an expense with a like amount reported as donated commodities revenue. Unused donated commodities are reported as deferred revenue.

The measurement focus of governmental fund accounting is on decreases in net financial resources (expenditures) rather than expenses. Expenditures are generally recognized in the accounting period in which the related fund liability is incurred, if measurable. Allocations of costs, such as depreciation, are not recognized in governmental funds.

Property Taxes

Property Tax Revenues – Property taxes are levied each September on the assessed value listed as of the prior January 1, for all real and personal property in the county. The billings are considered due upon receipt by the taxpayer; however, the actual date is based on a period ending 30 days after the tax bill mailing. Property taxes collected are recorded as revenues in the fiscal year for which they were levied. All taxes collected are initially deposited into the General fund and then transferred to the appropriate fund.

The property tax rates assessed for the year ended June 30, 2024, to finance the General Fund operations were \$0.716 per \$100 valuation for real property, \$0.716 per \$100 valuation for business personal property, and \$0.491 per \$100 valuation for motor vehicles.

The District levies a utility gross receipts license tax in the amount of 3% of the gross receipts derived from the furnishings, within the county, of telephonic and telegraphic communications services, cablevision services, electric power, water, and natural, artificial, and mixed gases.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

Capital Assets

General capital assets are those assets not specifically related to activities reported in the proprietary funds. These assets generally result from expenditures in the governmental funds. These assets are reported in the governmental activities column of the government-wide statement of net position but are not reported in the fund financial statements. Capital assets utilized by the proprietary funds are reported both in the business-type activities column of the government-wide statement of net position and in the respective funds.

All reported capital assets are depreciated. Improvements are depreciated over the remaining useful lives of the related capital assets. Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over the following useful lives for both general capital assets and proprietary fund assets:

Description	Governmental Activities Estimated Lives
Buildings and improvements	25-50 years
Land improvements	20 years
Technology equipment	5 years
Vehicles	5-10 years
Audio-visual equipment	15 years
Food service equipment	10-12 years
Furniture and fixtures	7 years
Rolling stock	15 years
Other	10 years

Interfund Balances

On fund financial statements, receivables and payable resulting from short-term interfund loans are classified as “interfund receivables/payables.” These amounts are eliminated in the governmental and business-type activities columns of the statements of net position, except for the net residual amounts due between governmental and business-type activities, which are presented as internal balances.

Accumulated Unpaid Sick Leave Benefits

Upon retirement from the school system, an employee will receive from the District an amount equal to 30% of the value of accumulated sick leave.

Sick leave benefits are accrued as a liability using the termination payment method. An accrual for earned sick leave is made to the extent that it is probable that the benefits will result in termination payments. The liability is based on the School District’s past experience of making termination payments.

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

For governmental fund financial statements, the current portion of unpaid accrued sick leave is the amount expected to be paid using expendable available resources. These amounts are recorded in the amount “accumulated sick leave payable” in the general fund. The noncurrent portion of the liability is reported as a reserve of fund balance.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

Budgetary Process

Budgetary Basis of Accounting: The District's budgetary process accounts for certain transactions on a basis other than Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). The major differences between the budgetary basis and the GAAP basis are:

Revenues are recorded when received in cash (budgetary) as opposed to when susceptible to accrual (GAAP).

Expenditures are recorded when paid in cash (budgetary) as opposed to when susceptible to accrual (GAAP).

Once the budget is approved, it can be amended. Amendments are presented to the Board at their regular meetings. Such amendments are made before the fact, are reflected in the official minutes of the Board, and are not made after fiscal year-end as dictated by law.

Each budget is prepared and controlled by the budget coordinator at the revenue and expenditure function/object level. All budget appropriations lapse at year-end.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

The District considers demand deposits, money market funds, and other investments with an original maturity of 90 days or less, to be cash equivalents.

Inventories

On government-wide financial statements, inventories are stated at cost and are expensed when used.

On fund financial statements inventories are stated at cost. The cost of inventory items is recorded as an expenditure in the governmental fund types when purchased.

The food service fund uses the specific identification method.

Investments

The private purpose trust funds record investments at their quoted market prices. All realized gains and losses and changes in fair value are recorded in the Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position.

Accrued Liabilities and Long-Term Obligations

All payables, accrued liabilities, and long-term obligations are reported in the government-wide financial statements, and all payables, accrued liabilities, and long-term obligations payable from proprietary funds are reported on the proprietary fund financial statements.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

In general, payables and accrued liabilities that will be paid from governmental funds are reported on the governmental fund financial statements regardless of whether they will be liquidated with current resources. However, claims and judgments, the noncurrent portion of capital leases, accumulated sick leave, contractually required pension contributions and special termination benefits that will be paid from governmental funds are reported as a liability in the fund financial statements only to the extent that they will be paid with current, expendable, available financial resources. In general, payments made within sixty days after year-end are considered to have been made with current available financial resources.

Bonds and other long-term obligations that will be paid from governmental funds are not recognized as a liability in the fund financial statements until due.

Fund Balance

In accordance with Government Accounting Standards Board 54, Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions, the District classifies governmental fund balances as follows:

Non-spendable – includes fund balance amounts that cannot be spent either because it is not in spendable form or because of legal or contractual constraints.

Restricted – includes fund balance amounts that are constrained for specific purposes which are externally imposed by providers, such as creditors or amounts constrained due to constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Committed – includes fund balance amounts that are constrained for specific purposes that are internally imposed by the government through formal action of the highest level of decision-making authority and does not lapse at year-end. Formal School Board action must be taken during an open meeting to establish, modify, or rescind a fund balance commitment.

Assigned – includes fund balance amounts that are intended to be used for specific purposes that are neither considered restricted or committed. Fund Balance may be assigned by the Superintendent.

Unassigned – includes positive fund balance within the General Fund which has not been classified within the above-mentioned categories and negative fund balances in other governmental funds.

The District committed the following fund balance type by taking the following action:

<u>Fund Balance Type</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Action</u>
General Fund	507,807	Long-Term Sick Leave Commitment
General Fund	38,500	Site Based Carryforward

The District uses *restricted/committed* amounts to be spent first when both restricted and unrestricted fund balance is available unless there are legal documents/contracts that prohibit doing this, such as grant agreements requiring dollar for dollar spending. Additionally, the District would first use *committed*, then *assigned*, and lastly *unassigned* amounts for unrestricted fund balance when expenditures are made.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

The District does not have a formal minimum fund balance policy.

Major Special Revenue Fund

Special Revenue

Revenue Source

State, Local and Federal Grants

Net Position

Net position represents the difference between assets and liabilities. Net investment in capital assets consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, reduced by the outstanding balances of any borrowings used for the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets. Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through the enabling legislation adopted by the School District or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, or laws or regulations of other governments.

Operating Revenues and Expenses

Operating revenues are those revenues that are generated directly from the primary activity of the proprietary funds. For the School District, those revenues are primarily charges for meals provided by the various schools.

Contributions of Capital

Contributions of capital in proprietary fund financial statements arise from outside contributions of fixed assets, or from grants or outside contributions of resources restricted to capital acquisition and construction.

Interfund Activity

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

Pensions

Teachers' Retirement System - For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the Teachers' Retirement System of the State of Kentucky (TRS) and additions to/deductions from TRS's fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by TRS. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value.

County Employees Retirement System - For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the County Employees Retirement System of the State of Kentucky (CERS) and additions to/deductions from CERS's fiduciary net position have been determined

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

on the same basis as they are reported by CERS. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value.

Since certain expense items are amortized over the closed periods each year, the deferred portions of these items must be tracked annually. If the amounts serve to reduce pension expense the amounts are labeled deferred inflows. If amounts will increase pension expense the amounts are labeled deferred outflows. The amortization of these amounts is accomplished on a level dollar basis, with no interest included in the deferred amounts. Experience gains/losses and the impact of changes in actuarial assumptions, if any, are amortized over the average expected remaining service life of the active and inactive plan members at the beginning of the fiscal year. Investment gains and losses are amortized over a fixed five-year period.

Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions

Teachers' Retirement System – For purposes of measuring the liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB, and OPEB expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the Teachers' Retirement System of the State of Kentucky (TRS) and additions to/deductions from TRS's fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by TRS. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value, except for money market investments and participating interest-earning investment contracts that have a maturity at the time of purchase of one year or less, which are reported at cost.

County Employees Retirement System - For purposes of measuring the liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB, and OPEB expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the County Employees Retirement System of the State of Kentucky (CERS) and additions to/deductions from CERS's fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by CERS. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value, except for money market investments and participating interest-earning investment contracts that have a maturity at the time of purchase of one year or less, which are reported at cost.

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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

NOTE B – ESTIMATES

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires the District’s management to make estimates and assumptions that affect reported amounts of assets, liabilities, fund balances, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the general-purpose financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenditures during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

NOTE C – CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Custodial Credit Risk - Deposits. Custodial Credit is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the District’s deposits may not be returned to it. The District’s policy is to have all deposits secured by pledged securities.

At year-end, the carrying amount of the District’s total cash and cash equivalents was \$42,850,534. Of the total cash balance, \$250,000 was covered by Federal Depository Insurance, with \$37,132,710 covered by collateral agreements and collateral held by the pledging banks’ trust departments in the District’s name, and the remaining \$5,467,824 was uncollateralized. Cash equivalents are funds temporarily invested in securities with maturity of 90 days or less.

Cash and cash equivalents at June 30, 2024, consisted of the following:

	Bank Balance	Book Balance
Whitaker Bank	<u>43,883,956</u>	<u>42,850,534</u>
Breakdown per financial statements:		
Governmental Funds		40,666,252
Proprietary Funds		<u>2,184,282</u>
Total Cash		<u>42,850,534</u>

NOTE D – LONG TERM OBLIGATIONS

The amount shown in the accompanying financial statements as bond obligations represents the District’s future obligations to make payments relating to the bonds issued by the Mercer County School District Finance Corporation in the original amount aggregating \$72,850,000.

The original amount of each issue and interest rates are summarized below:

2013 Refunding	1,845,000	1.05% - 2.00%
2013	2,400,000	2.00% - 4.00%
2014 Refunding	4,115,000	1.75% - 3.50%
2015	645,000	3.15%
2016 Refunding	18,195,000	2.00% - 3.00%
2020 Energy	8,070,000	3.00% - 3.75%
2020	685,000	3.25% - 3.50%
2022	7,060,000	3.00% - 4.00%
2024	33,950,000	4.00% - 4.125%

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

The District, through the General Fund (including utility taxes and the SEEK Capital Outlay Fund) is obligated to make bond payments in amounts sufficient to satisfy debt service requirements on bonds issued by Mercer County School District Finance Corporation to construct school facilities. The District has an option to purchase the property under lease at any time by retiring the bonds then outstanding.

In 1995 the Board entered into “participation agreements” with the Kentucky School Facility Construction Commission. The Commission was created by the Kentucky Legislature for the purpose of assisting local school districts in meeting school construction needs. The table sets forth the amount to be paid by the Board and the Commission for each year until maturity of all bonds issued. The Kentucky School Construction Commission’s participation is limited to the biennial budget period of the Commonwealth of Kentucky with the right reserved by the Kentucky School Construction Commission to terminate the commitment to pay the agreed participation every two years. The obligation of the Kentucky School Construction Commission to make the agreed payments automatically renews each two years for a period of two years unless the Kentucky School Construction Commission gives notice of its intention not to participate not less than sixty days prior to the end of its biennium.

The bonds may be called prior to maturity and redemption premiums are specified in each issue. Assuming no bonds are called prior to scheduled maturity, the maturity, the minimum obligations of the District, including amounts to be paid by the Commission at June 30, 2024, for debt service (principal and interest) are as follows:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>PRINCIPAL</u>	<u>INTEREST</u>	<u>PARTICIPATION</u>	<u>PORTION</u>
2024-25	2,690,000	2,247,728	235,923	4,701,805
2025-26	2,775,000	2,191,969	235,924	4,731,045
2026-27	2,855,000	2,113,937	235,924	4,733,013
2027-28	2,485,000	2,008,254	171,617	4,321,637
2028-29	2,570,000	1,923,083	171,618	4,321,465
2029-30	2,665,000	1,833,066	171,618	4,326,448
2030-31	2,640,000	1,739,288	167,726	4,211,562
2031-32	2,715,000	1,661,904	160,606	4,216,298
2032-33	2,825,000	1,561,198	160,606	4,225,592
2033-34	2,925,000	1,454,963	148,705	4,231,258
2034-35	2,990,000	1,348,990	100,964	4,238,026
2035-36	3,105,000	1,235,752	100,964	4,239,788
2036-37	3,190,000	1,117,428	100,964	4,206,464
2037-38	3,320,000	993,988	100,964	4,213,024
2038-39	3,460,000	865,225	100,964	4,224,261
2039-40	3,160,000	730,294	54,296	3,835,998
2040-41	3,280,000	604,875	53,351	3,831,524
2041-42	3,415,000	473,825	54,164	3,834,661
2042-43	3,010,000	336,825	54,976	3,291,849
2043-44	3,115,000	227,725	50,788	3,291,937
2044-45	2,500,000	103,125		2,603,125
	<u>61,690,000</u>	<u>26,773,442</u>	<u>2,632,662</u>	<u>85,830,780</u>

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

On May 7, 2024, the District issued \$33,950,000 in Revenue Bonds with an interest rate of 4.00%-4.125%. The net proceeds of \$33,119,075 (after bond discount of \$641,940 and bond issuance costs of \$188,985) were deposited in the construction fund. The final principal payment matures May 2045.

Long-term liability activity for the year ended June 30, 2024, was as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Reductions	Ending Balance	Due Within One Year
Primary Government					
Governmental Activities:					
Revenue Bonds Payable	30,350,000	33,950,000	(2,610,000)	61,690,000	2,690,000
Add: Bond Premium	131,490	0	(32,873)	98,617	32,873
Less: Bond Discount	(262,688)	(641,940)	20,760	(883,868)	(47,506)
Net Revenue Bonds Payable	30,218,802	33,308,060	(2,622,113)	60,904,749	2,675,367
KISBIT Obligation	1,082,408	0	(208,521)	873,887	201,884
Lease Obligation - Copiers	1,152	206,336	(35,962)	171,526	39,457
Net Pension Liability	8,218,399	0	(189,595)	8,028,804	0
Net OPEB Liability	9,332,392	0	(4,533,125)	4,799,267	0
Accrued Sick Leave	794,385	0	(128,824)	665,561	157,754
Total Governmental Activities:	49,647,538	33,514,396	(7,718,140)	75,443,794	3,074,462
Proprietary Activities					
Net Pension Liability	1,204,620	0	(31,894)	1,172,726	0
Net OPEB Liability	322,629	0	(398,881)	(76,252)	0
Total Proprietary Activities:	1,527,249	0	(430,775)	1,096,474	0
Long-Term Liabilities	51,174,787	33,514,396	(8,148,915)	76,540,268	3,074,462

NOTE E - KSBIT OBLIGATIONS & LEASE OBLIGATION - COPIERS

The District is the lessee of buses and copiers under leases expiring in various years through 2031. The assets and liabilities under capital leases are recorded at the present value of the minimum lease payments or the fair value of the asset. The assets are amortized over their estimated productive lives. Amortization of assets is included with depreciation expense. See also Note F.

<u>KSBIT Obligations for Buses:</u>			
<u>Year Ending June 30,</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
2025	201,884	19,526	221,410
2026	197,117	14,805	211,922
2027	165,867	10,107	175,974
2028	131,296	6,259	137,555
2029	99,827	3,347	103,174
2030	55,145	1,334	56,479
2031	22,751	341	23,092
	<u>873,887</u>	<u>55,719</u>	<u>929,606</u>

NOTES TO FINANCIALS STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

<u>Lease Obligations - Copiers</u>			
<u>Year Ending June 30,</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
2025	39,457	6,143	45,600
2026	41,065	4,535	45,600
2027	42,738	2,862	45,600
2028	44,479	1,121	45,600
2029	3,787	13	3,800
	<u>171,526</u>	<u>14,674</u>	<u>186,200</u>

Interest rates on leases vary from 2.00% to 4.77%. The capital leases provide for the buses to revert to the District at the end of the respective lease with no further payment for purchase.

NOTES TO FINANCIALS STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

NOTE F - Capital Assets

Capital asset activity for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, was as follows:

	BEGINNING BALANCE	ADDITIONS	RETIREMENTS	ENDING BALANCE
GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES:				
Non-Depreciable Assets:				
Land	1,921,384		100,000	1,821,384
Construction in Progress	6,657,118	(3,640,357)		3,016,761
Depreciable Assets:				
Buildings & Building Improvements	75,545,075	6,544,761		82,089,836
Technology Equipment	1,940,256		17,664	1,922,592
Vehicles	5,216,633	759,116		5,975,749
General Equipment	2,199,116	11,300		2,210,416
Intangible Right of Use Asset - Copiers		206,336		206,336
TOTAL AT HISTORICAL COST	93,479,582	3,881,156	117,664	97,243,074
LESS ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION & AMORTIZATION FOR:				
Buildings & Building Improvements	34,371,035	1,867,158		36,238,193
Technology Equipment	1,009,976	335,275		1,345,251
Vehicles	3,290,927	478,065		3,768,992
General Equipment	1,811,586	70,682		1,882,268
Intangible Right of Use Asset - Copiers	-	37,828		37,828
TOTAL ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION	40,483,524	2,789,008	-	43,272,532
GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES CAPITAL NET	52,996,058	1,092,148	(117,664)	53,970,542
PROPRIETARY ACTIVITIES:				
Depreciable Assets:				
Land Improvements		26,145		26,145
General Equipment	833,042	279,563		1,112,605
TOTALS AT HISTORICAL COST	833,042	305,708	-	1,138,750
LESS ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION FOR:				
Land Improvements		181		181
General Equipment	240,026	76,936		316,962
TOTAL ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION	240,026	77,117	-	317,143
PROPRIETARY ACTIVITIES CAPITAL NET	593,016	228,591	-	821,607
DEPRECIATION EXPENSE CHARGED TO GOVERNMENTAL FUNCTIONS AS FOLLOWS:				
Instructional				1,902,379
Student Support Services				37,895
District Administration				1,320
School Administration				2,944
Business Support Services				636
Plant Operation & Maintenance				341,767
Student Transportation				464,239
TOTAL DEPRECIATION				2,751,180
AMORTIZATION EXPENSE CHARGED TO GOVERNMENTAL FUNCTIONS AS FOLLOWS:				
Instructional				37,828
TOTAL DEPRECIATION & AMORTIZATION				2,789,008

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

NOTE G – RETIREMENT PLANS

The District’s employees are provided with two pension plans, based on each position’s college degree requirement. The County Employees Retirement System covers employees whose position does not require a college degree or teaching certification. The Kentucky Teachers Retirement System covers positions requiring teaching certification or otherwise requiring a college degree.

Note that general information has been provided below. Please consult the plan reports regarding additional tiers and benefits.

General information about the County Employees Retirement System Non-Hazardous (“CERS”)

Plan description—Employees whose positions do not require a degree beyond a high school diploma are covered by the CERS, a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by the Kentucky Retirement System, an agency of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Under the provisions of the Kentucky Revised Statute (“KRS”) Section 61.645, the Board of Trustees of the Kentucky Retirement System administers CERS and has the authority to establish and amend benefit provisions. The Kentucky Retirement System issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for CERS. That report may be obtained from <http://kyret.ky.gov/>.

Benefits provided—CERS provides retirement, health insurance, death and disability benefits to Plan employees and beneficiaries. Employees are vested in the plan after five years’ service. For retirement purposes, employees are grouped into three tiers, based on hire date:

Tier 1	Participation date	Before September 1, 2008
	Unreduced retirement	27 years service or 65 years old
	Reduced retirement	At least 5 years service and 55 years old At least 25 years service and any age
Tier 2	Participation date	September 1, 2008 - December 31, 2013
	Unreduced retirement	At least 5 years service and 65 years old OR age 57+ and sum of service years plus age equal 87
	Reduced retirement	At least 10 years service or 60 years old
Tier 3	Participation date	After December 31, 2013
	Unreduced retirement	At least 5 years service and 65 years old OR age 57+ and sum of service years plus age equal 87
	Reduced retirement	Not Available

Cost of living adjustments are provided at the discretion of the General Assembly. Retirement is based on a factor of the number of years’ service and hire date multiplied by the average of the highest five years’ earnings. Reduced benefits are based on factors of both of these components. Participating employees become eligible to receive the health insurance benefit after at least 180 months of service. Death benefits are provided for both death after retirement and death prior to retirement. Death benefits after retirement are \$5,000 in lump sum. Five years’ service is required for death benefits prior to retirement and the employee must have suffered a duty-related death. The decedent’s beneficiary will receive the higher of the normal death benefit and \$10,000 plus 25% of the decedent’s monthly final rate of pay and any dependent child will receive 10% of the decedent’s monthly final rate of pay up to 40% for all dependent children. Five years’ service is required for nonservice-related disability benefits.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

Contributions—Required contributions by the employee are based on the tier:

	<u>Required Contributions</u>
Tier 1	5%
Tier 2	5% +1% for insurance
Tier 3	5% +1% for insurance

General information about the Teachers’ Retirement System of the State of Kentucky (“TRS”)

Plan description—Teaching certified employees of the District and other employees whose positions require at least a college degree are provided pensions through the Teachers’ Retirement System of the State of Kentucky (TRS)—a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan with a special funding situation established to provide retirement annuity plan coverage for local school districts and other public educational agencies in the Commonwealth. TRS was created by the 1938 General Assembly and is governed by Chapter 161 Section 220 through Chapter 161 Section 990 of the KRS. TRS is a blended component unit of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and therefore is included in the Commonwealth’s financial statements. TRS issues a publicly available financial report that can be obtained at http://www.TRS.ky.gov/05_publications/index.htm.

Benefits provided—For employees who have established an account in a retirement system administered by the Commonwealth prior to July 1, 2008, employees become vested when they complete five (5) years of credited service. To qualify for monthly retirement benefits, payable for life, employees must either:

- 1.) Attain age fifty-five (55) and complete five (5) years of Kentucky service, or
- 2.) Complete 27 years of Kentucky service.

Employees that retire before age 60 with less than 27 years of service receive reduced retirement benefits. Non-university employees with an account established prior to July 1, 2002 receive monthly payments equal to two (2) percent (service prior to July 1, 1983) and two and one-half (2.5) percent (service after July 1, 1983) of their final average salaries for each year of credited service. New employees (including second retirement accounts) after July 1, 2002 will receive monthly benefits equal to 2% of their final average salary for each year of service if, upon retirement, their total service less than ten years. New employees after July 1, 2002 who retire with ten or more years of total service will receive monthly benefits equal to 2.5% of their final average salary for each year of service, including the first ten years.

In addition, employees who retire July 1, 2004 and later with more than 30 years of service will have their multiplier increased for all years over 30 from 2.5% to 3.0% to be used in their benefit calculation. Effective July 1, 2008, the System has been amended to change the benefit structure for employees hired on or after that date.

Final average salary is defined as the member’s five (5) highest annual salaries for those with less than 27 years of service. Employees at least age 55 with 27 or more years of service may use their three (3) highest annual salaries to compute the final average salary. TRS also provides disability benefits for vested employees at the rate of sixty (60) percent of the final average salary. A life insurance benefit, payable upon the death of a member, is \$2,000 for active contributing employees and \$5,000 for retired or disabled employees.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

Cost of living increases are one and one-half (1.5) percent annually. Additional ad hoc increases and any other benefit amendments must be authorized by the General Assembly.

Contributions—Contribution rates are established by Kentucky Revised Statutes (KRS). University members contribute 10.4% of salary to the retirement system. Non-university employees are required to contribute 12.855% or 14.75% of their salaries to the System, with the rate dependent upon the employee's entry date. Member contributions are picked up by the employer.

The Commonwealth of Kentucky, as a non-employer contributing entity, pays matching contributions at the rate of 13.105% of salaries for local school district and regional cooperative employees hired before July 1, 2008 and 14.105% for those hired after July 1, 2008. For local school district and regional cooperative employees whose salaries are federally funded, the employer contributes range from 16.105% to 17.105% of salaries, depending on the employee's entry date. If an employee leaves covered employment before accumulating five (5) years of credited service, accumulated employee pension contributions plus interest are refunded to the employee upon the member's request.

Medical Insurance Plan

Plan description—In addition to the pension benefits described above, KRS 161.675 requires TRS to provide post-employment healthcare benefits to eligible employees and dependents. The TRS Medical Insurance Fund is a cost-sharing multiple employer defined benefit plan. Changes made to the medical plan may be made by the TRS Board of Trustees, the Kentucky Department of Employee Insurance and the General Assembly.

To be eligible for medical benefits, the member must have retired either for service or disability. The TRS Medical Insurance Fund offers coverage to employees under the age of 65 through the Kentucky Employees Health Plan administered by the Kentucky Department of Employee Insurance. Once retired employees and eligible spouses attain age 65 and are Medicare eligible, coverage is obtained through the TRS Medicare Eligible Health Plan.

Funding policy—In order to fund the post-retirement healthcare benefit, six percent (6%) of the gross annual payroll of employees before July 1, 2008 is contributed. Three percent (3%) is paid by member contributions and three quarters percent (.75%) from Commonwealth appropriation and two and one quarter percent (2.25%) from the employer. Also, the premiums collected from retirees as described in the plan description and investment interest help meet the medical expenses of the plan.

At June 30, 2024, the District reported a liability for its proportionate share of the net pension liability for CERS. The District did not report a liability for the District's proportionate share of the net pension liability for TRS because the Commonwealth of Kentucky provides the pension support directly to TRS on behalf of the District. The amount recognized by the District as its proportionate share of the net pension liability, the related Commonwealth support, and the total portion of the net pension liability that was associated with the District were as follows:

District's proportionate share of the CERS net pension liability	\$ 9,201,530
Commonwealth's proportional share of the TRS net pension liability associated with the District	<u>65,144,731</u>
	<u>\$ 74,346,261</u>

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

The net pension liability for each plan was measured as of June 30, 2023, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date.

The District's proportion of the net pension liability for CERS was based on the actual liability of the employees and former employees relative to the total liability of the System as determined by the actuary. At June 30, 2024, the District's proportion was 0.143404 percent and at June 30, 2023, the District's portion was 0.130350 percent.

For the year ended June 30, 2024, the District recognized pension expense of \$718,561 related to CERS and \$3,918,533 related to TRS. The District also recognized revenue of \$3,918,533 for TRS support provided by the Commonwealth. At June 30, 2024, the District reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	<u>Outflows of Resources</u>	<u>Deferred Inflows of Resources</u>
Differences between expected and actual experience (liability experience)	\$ 476,345	\$ 25,003
Changes of assumptions	-	843,327
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	994,026	1,119,540
Changes in proportion and differences between District contributions and proportionate share of contributions	584,496	53,085
District contributions subsequent to the measurement date	<u>1,019,322</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>\$ 3,074,189</u>	<u>\$ 2,040,955</u>

\$1,019,322 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from District contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ended June 30, 2025. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

<u>Year ended June 30:</u>	
2025	(26,167)
2026	(76,256)
2027	205,415
2028	(89,080)
2029	-

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

Actuarial assumptions—The total pension liability in the June 30, 2023 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement.

Teachers' Retirement System (TRS)

The total pension liability in the June 30, 2023 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Valuation Date	June 30, 2022
Inflation	2.50 percent
Salary increases	3.00 – 7.50 percent
Long-Term Investment Rate of Return, net of pension plan investment expense, including inflation	7.10 percent
Municipal Bond Index Rate	
Prior Measurement Date	3.37 percent
Measurement Date	3.66 percent
Year FNP is projected to depleted	N/A
Single Equivalent Interest Rate, net of pension plan investment expense, including inflation	
Prior Measurement Date	7.10 percent
Measurement Date	7.10 percent
Post-retirement Benefit Increases	1.50% annually

Mortality rates were based on the Pub2010 (Teachers Benefit-Weighted) Mortality Table projected generationally with MP-2020 with various set-forwards, set-backs, and adjustments for each of the groups. The actuarial assumptions used were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the 5-year period ending June 30, 2020, adopted by the board on September 20, 2021. The Municipal Bond Index Rate used for this purpose is the June average of the Bond Buyer General Obligation 20-year Municipal Bond Index.

For TRS, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a log-normal distribution analysis in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

The target allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class, as provided by TRS's investment consultant, are summarized in the following table:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rates of Return
Large Cap U.S. Equity	35.4%	5.0%
Small Cap U.S. Equity	2.60%	5.5%
Developed International Equity	15.7%	5.5%
Emerging Markets Equity	5.3%	6.1%
Fixed Income	15.00%	1.9%
High Yield Bonds	5.0%	3.8%
Other Additional Categories	5.0%	3.6%
Real Estate	7.00%	3.2%
Private Equity	7.00%	8.0%
Cash	2.0%	1.6%
Total	100.0%	

Discount rate - For TRS, The discount rate used to measure the TPL as of the Measurement Date was 7.10 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate was performed in accordance with GASB 67. We assumed that Plan member contributions will be made at the current contribution rates and that Employer contributions will be made at the Actuarially Determined Contribution rates for all fiscal years in the future. Based on those assumptions, the pension plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected 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 benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

County Employees' Retirement System (CERS)

The total pension liability in the June 30, 2023 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Inflation rate	2.50%
Payroll Growth Rate	2.0% for CERS Nonhazardous
Salary Increases	3.30% to 10.30%, varies by service for CERS Nonhazardous
Investment Rate of Return	6.50% for CERS Nonhazardous

The mortality table used for active members was a Pub-2010 General Mortality table, for the Nonhazardous System, and the Pub-2010 Public Safety Mortality table for the Hazardous System, projected with the ultimate rates from the MP-2014 mortality improvement scale using a base year of 2010. The mortality table used for healthy retired members was a system-specific mortality table based on mortality experience from 2013-2022, projected with the ultimate rates from MP-2020 mortality improvement scale using a base year of 2023. The mortality table used for the disabled members was PUB-2010 Disabled Mortality table, with rates multiplied by 150% for both male and female rates, projected with the ultimate rates from the MP-2020 mortality improvement scale using a base year of 2010.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

For CERS, the long-term expected rate of return was determined by using a building block method in which best estimate ranges of expected future real rates of returns are developed for each asset class. The ranges are combined by weighting the expected future real rate of return by target asset allocation percentage. The target allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rate of return for each major asset class is summarized in the table below. The current long-term inflation assumption is 2.30% per annum.

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Equity		
Public Equity	50.00%	5.90%
Private Equity	10.00%	11.73%
Fixed Income		
Core Bonds	10.00%	2.45%
Specialty Credit / High Yield	10.00%	3.65%
Cash	0.00%	1.39%
Inflation Protected		
Real Estate	7.00%	4.99%
Real Return	13.00%	5.15%
Total	100.0%	5.75%
Long Term Inflation Assumption		2.50%
Expected Nominal Return for Portfolio		8.25%

Discount rate—For CERS, projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate of 6.50% assumes that the funds receive the required employer contributions each future year, as determined by the current 28 years (closed) amortization period of the unfunded actuarial accrued liability. The discount rate determination does not use a municipal bond rate.

Sensitivity of CERS and TRS proportionate share of net pension liability to changes in the discount rate—The following table presents the net pension liability of the District, calculated using the discount rates selected by each pension system, as well as what the District’s net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower or 1-percentage-point higher than the current rate:

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
CERS	5.50%	6.50%	7.50%
District's proportionate share of net pension liability	11,617,487	9,201,530	7,193,778
TRS	6.10%	7.10%	8.10%
District's proportionate share of net pension liability	0	0	0

Pension plan fiduciary net position—Detailed information about the pension plan’s fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued financial reports of both CERS and TRS.

NOTE H – POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS OTHER THAN PENSIONS

Note that general information has been provided below. Please consult the plan reports regarding additional tiers and benefits.

Teachers' Retirement System of Kentucky

Plan description – Teaching-certified employees of the Kentucky School District are provided OPEBs through the Teachers' Retirement System of the State of Kentucky (TRS)—a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit OPEB plan with a special funding situation established to provide retirement annuity plan coverage for local school districts and other public educational agencies in the state. TRS was created by the 1938 General Assembly and is governed by Chapter 161 Section 220 through Chapter 161 Section 990 of the Kentucky Revised Statutes (KRS). TRS is a blended component unit of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and therefore is included in the Commonwealth's financial statements. TRS issues a publicly available financial report that can be obtained at <https://trs.ky.gov/financial-reports-information>.

The state reports a liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources, and expense as a result of its statutory requirement to contribute to the TRS Medical Insurance and Life Insurance Plans. The following information is about the TRS plans:

Medical Insurance Plan

Plan description – In addition to the OPEB benefits described above, Kentucky Revised Statute 161.675 requires TRS to provide post-employment healthcare benefits to eligible members and dependents. The TRS Medical Insurance benefit is a cost-sharing multiple employer defined benefit plan with a special funding situation. Changes made to the medical plan may be made by the TRS Board of Trustees, the Kentucky Department of Employee Insurance and the General Assembly.

Benefits provided – To be eligible for medical benefits, the member must have retired either for service or disability. The TRS Medical Insurance Fund offers coverage to members under the age of 65 through the Kentucky Employees Health Plan administered by the Kentucky Department of Employee Insurance. TRS retired members are given a supplement to be used for payment of their health insurance premium. The amount of the member's supplement is based on a contribution supplement table approved by the TRS Board of Trustees. The retired member pays premiums in excess of the monthly supplement. Once retired members and eligible spouses attain age 65 and are Medicare eligible, coverage is obtained through the TRS Medicare Eligible Health Plan.

Contributions – In order to fund the post-retirement healthcare benefit, seven and one-half percent (7.50%) of the gross annual payroll of members is contributed. Three percent (3.75%) is paid by member contributions and three quarters percent (.75%) from state appropriation and three percent (3.00%) from the employer. The state contributes the net cost of health insurance premiums for members who retired on or after July 1, 2010 who are in the non-Medicare eligible group. Also, the premiums collected from retirees as described in the plan description and investment interest help meet the medical expenses of the plan.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

At June 30, 2024, the Mercer County District reported a liability of \$4,921,000 for its proportionate share of the collective net OPEB liability that reflected a reduction for state OPEB support provided to the District. The collective net OPEB liability was measured as of June 30, 2023, and the total OPEB liability used to calculate the collective net OPEB liability was based on a projection of the District's long-term share of contributions to the OPEB plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating employers, actuarially determined. At June 30, 2024, the District's proportion was .2020 percent, compared to .2853 percent at June 30, 2023.

The amount recognized by the District as its proportionate share of the OPEB liability, the related State support, and the total portion of the net OPEB liability that was associated with the District were as follows:

District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$ 4,921,000
State's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability associated with the District	<u>4,148,000</u>
Total	<u>\$ 9,069,000</u>

For the year ended June 30, 2024, the District recognized OPEB expense of \$(331,697) and revenue of \$322,661 for support provided by the State. At June 30, 2024, the District reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEBs from the following sources:

	<u>Deferred Outflows of Resources</u>	<u>Deferred Inflows of Resources</u>
Differences between expected and actual experience (liability experience)	\$ -	905,057
Changes of assumptions	607,169	-
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	49,919	-
Changes in proportion and differences between District contributions and proportionate share of contributions	907,227	1,134,034
District contributions subsequent to the measurement date	<u>430,210</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>1,994,525</u>	<u>2,039,091</u>

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

Of the total amount reported as deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB, \$430,210 resulting from District contributions subsequent to the measurement date and before the end of the fiscal year will be included as a reduction of the collective net OPEB liability in the year ended June 30, 2025. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in the District’s OPEB expense as follows:

Year ended June 30:	
2025	\$ (159,524)
2026	(137,820)
2027	29,300
2028	1,085
2029	(98,211)
Thereafter	(109,606)

Actuarial assumptions – The total OPEB liability in the June 30, 2023 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Valuation Date	June 20, 2022
Inflation	2.50%
Real wage growth	0.25%
Wage inflation	2.75%
Salary increases, including wage inflation	3.00%-7.50%
Long-term Investment Rate of Return, net of OPEB plan investment expense, including Inflation	
Health Trust	7.10%
Life Trust	7.10%
Municipal Bond Index Rate	3.66%
Year FNP is projected to be depleted	N/A
Single Equivalent Interest Rate, net of OPEB plan investment expense, including price inflation	
Health Trust	7.10%
Life Trust	7.10%
Health Trust Health Care Cost Trends	
Medica Trend	6.75% for FYE 2023 decreasing to an ultimate rate of 4.50% by FYE 2032
Medicare Part B Premiums	1.55% for FYE 2023 decreasing to an ultimate rate of 4.50% by FYE 2034

Mortality rates were based on the Pub2010 (Teachers Amount-Weighted) Mortality Table projected generationally with MP-2020 with various set-forwards, set-backs, and adjustments for each of the groups; service, retirees, contingent annuitants, disabled retirees, and active members.

The demographic actuarial assumptions for retirement, disability incidence, withdrawal, rates of plan participation, and rates of plan election used in the June 30, 2022 valuation were based on the results of the most recent actuarial experience studies for the System, which covered the five-year period ending June 30, 2020, adopted by the Board on September 20, 2021.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

The long-term expected rate of return on Health Trust and Life Trust investments was determined using a log-normal distribution analysis in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation.

The target allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class, as provided by TRS's investment consultant, are summarized in the following table:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Global Equity	58.00%	5.10%
Fixed Income	9.00%	(0.10)%
Real Estate	6.50%	4.00%
Private Equity	8.00%	6.90%
Additional Category: High Yield	8.00%	1.70%
Other Additional Categories	9.00%	2.20%
Cash (LIBOR)	1.00%	-0.30%
	100.00%	

The following table presents the District's proportionate share of the collective net OPEB liability of the System, calculated using the discount rate of 7.10%, as well as what the District's proportionate share of the collective net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (6.10%) or 1-percentage-point higher (8.10%) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
TRS District's proportionate share of net OPEB liability	6.10%	7.10%	8.10%
	6,329,000	4,921,000	3,757,000

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

Sensitivity of the District’s proportionate share of the collective net OPEB liability to changes in the healthcare cost trend rates – The following presents the District’s proportionate share of the collective net OPEB liability, as well as what the District’s proportionate share of the collective net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using healthcare cost trend rates that were 1-percentage-point lower or 1-percentage-point higher than the current healthcare cost trend rates:

	<u>1% Decrease</u>	<u>Current Trend Rate</u>	<u>1% Increase</u>
District's proportionate share of net OPEB liability	3,543,000	4,921,000	6,637,000

OPEB plan fiduciary net position – Detailed information about the OPEB plan’s fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued TRS financial report.

Life Insurance Plan

Plan description – Life Insurance Plan – TRS administers the life insurance plan as provided by Kentucky Revised Statute 161.655 to eligible active and retired members. The TRS Life Insurance benefit is a cost-sharing multiple employer defined benefit plan with a special funding situation. Changes made to the life insurance plan may be made by the TRS Board of Trustees and the General Assembly.

Benefits provided – TRS provides a life insurance benefit of five thousand dollars payable for members who retire based on service or disability. TRS provides a life insurance benefit of two thousand dollars payable for its active contributing members. The life insurance benefit is payable upon the death of the member to the member’s estate or to a party designated by the member.

Contributions – In order to fund the post-retirement life insurance benefit, three hundredths of one percent (.03%) of the gross annual payroll of members is contributed by the state.

At June 30, 2024, the Kentucky School District did not report a liability for its proportionate share of the collective net OPEB liability for life insurance benefits because the State of Kentucky provides the OPEB support directly to TRS on behalf of the District. The amount recognized by the District as its proportionate share of the OPEB liability, the related State support, and the total portion of the net OPEB liability that was associated with the District were as follows:

District’s proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	-0-
State’s proportionate share of the net OPEB liability associated with the District	<u>103,000</u>
Total	<u>\$ 103,000</u>

Actuarial assumptions – The actuarial assumptions are listed above with the TRS OPEB assumptions information.

The long-term expected rate of return on Health Trust and Life Trust investments was determined using a log-normal distribution analysis in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

The target allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class, as provided by TRS’s investment consultant, are summarized in the following table:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Global Equity	40.00%	4.40%
International Equity	23.00%	5.60%
Fixed Income	18.00%	-0.10%
Real Estate	6.00%	4.00%
Private Equity	5.00%	6.90%
Additional Categories	6.00%	2.10%
Cash (LIBOR)	2.00%	-0.30%
	100.00%	

Discount rate (SEIR) - The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability for life insurance was 7.10%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate was performed in accordance with GASB 75. The projection’s basis was an actuarial valuation performed as of June 30, 2022. For a listing of the additional methods and assumptions used in the projection of cash flows, see the GASB No. 75 Report for the Teachers’ Retirement System of the State of Kentucky, which can be found at <https://trs.ky.gov/administration/financial-reports-information/>.

OPEB plan fiduciary net position – Detailed information about the OPEB plan’s fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued TRS financial report.

County Employees’ Retirement System of Kentucky

Plan description – Classified (non-certified) employees of the Kentucky School District are provided OPEBs through the County Employees Retirement System of the State of Kentucky (CERS)—a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit OPEB plan retirement annuity plan coverage for local school districts and other public agencies in the state. CERS was established July 1, 1958 by the state legislature. CERS is a blended component unit of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and therefore is included in the Commonwealth’s financial statements. CERS issues a publicly available financial report that can be obtained at <https://kyret.ky.gov/About/Board-of-Trustees/Pages/CAFR-and-SAFR.aspx>.

The state reports a liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources, and expense as a result of its statutory requirement to contribute to the CERS Medical Insurance. The following information is about the CERS plans:

Medical Insurance Plan

Plan description –The Kentucky Retirement Systems’ Insurance Fund (Insurance Fund) was established to provide hospital and medical insurance for eligible members receiving benefits from KERS, CERS, and SPRS, the state retirement options. The eligible non-Medicare retirees are covered by the Department of Employee Insurance (DEI) plans. The Board contracts with Humana to provide health care benefits to the eligible Medicare retirees through a Medicare Advantage Plan. The Insurance Fund pays a prescribed contribution for whole or partial payment of required premiums to purchase hospital and medical insurance. It is noted that while this insurance fund covers employees eligible through

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

KERS, CERS, and SPRS, only the portion related to CERS is applicable to Mercer County School District since the District does not have or qualify to have employees participate in KERS or SPRS.

Benefits provided – Medical Insurance coverage is provided based on the member’s initial participation date and length of service. Members received either a percentage or dollar amount for insurance coverage. The amount of contribution paid by the Insurance Fund is based on years of service. For members participating prior to July 1, 2003, years of service and respective percentages of the maximum contribution are as follows:

<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Paid By Insurance Fund (%)</u>
20+	100%
15-19	75%
10-14	50%
4-9	25%
Less than 4	0%

Medical insurance benefits are calculated differently for members who began participating on or after July 1, 2003. Once members reach a vesting period of 10 years, non-hazardous employees whose participation began on or after July 1, 2003 earn \$10 per month for insurance benefits at retirement for every year of earned service without regard to a maximum dollar amount. This dollar amount is subject to adjustment annually, which is currently 1.5%, based upon Kentucky Revised Statutes. The Kentucky General Assembly reserves the right to suspend or reduce this benefit if, in its judgment, the welfare of the Commonwealth so demands. Only benefit descriptions applicable to CERS Non-Hazardous have been included with this information since only that portion is applicable to the District.

Contributions – In order to fund the post-retirement healthcare benefit, 0.00% of the gross annual payroll of members is contributed for the year ended June 30, 2024 for CERS Non-Hazardous, which is the portion of the plan applicable to the District, and this portion is paid 100% paid by employer contributions. An additional 1.00% is contributed by employees hired on or after September 1, 2008.

At June 30, 2024, the Mercer County District reported a liability of \$ (197,985) for its proportionate share of the collective net OPEB liability that reflected a reduction for state OPEB support provided to the District. The collective net OPEB liability was measured as of June 30, 2023, and the total OPEB liability used to calculate the collective net OPEB liability was based on a projection of the District’s long-term share of contributions to the OPEB plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating employers, actuarially determined. At June 30, 2024, the District’s proportion was .143398 percent, compared to .130327 percent at June 30, 2023.

The amount recognized by the District as its proportionate share of the OPEB liability, the related State support, and the total portion of the net OPEB liability that was associated with the District were as follows:

District’s proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$ (197,985)
State’s proportionate share of the net OPEB liability associated with the District	<u>-0-</u>
Total	<u>\$ (197,985)</u>

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

For the year ended June 30, 2024, the District recognized OPEB expense of \$(391,757). At June 30, 2024, the District reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEBs from the following sources:

	<u>Deferred Outflows of Resources</u>	<u>Deferred Inflows of Resources</u>
Differences between expected and actual experience (liability experience)	\$ 138,025	\$ 2,811,188
Changes of assumptions	389,620	271,526
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	370,521	416,470
Changes in proportion and differences between District contributions and proportionate share of contributions	219,055	84,649
District contributions subsequent to the measurement date	<u>64,667</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u><u>1,181,888</u></u>	<u><u>3,583,833</u></u>

Of the total amount reported as deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB, \$0 resulting from District contributions subsequent to the measurement date and before the end of the fiscal year and implicit subsidy of \$64,667 totaling \$64,667 will be included as a reduction of the collective net OPEB liability in the year ended June 30, 2024. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in the District's OPEB expense as follows:

Year ended June 30:	
2025	\$ (621,836)
2026	(775,752)
2027	(573,421)
2028	(495,603)
Thereafter	-

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

Actuarial assumptions – The total OPEB liability in the June 30, 2023 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Inflation	2.50%
Payroll Growth Rate	2.00% for CERS Nonhazardous
Investment rate of return	6.55%
Salary Increases	3.30% to 10.30%, varies by service for CERS Nonhazardous
Healthcare cost trend rates	
Pre - 65	Initial trend starting at 6.80% at January 1, 2025, and gradually decreasing to an ultimate trend rate of 4.05% over a period of 13 years
Post - 65	Initial trend starting at 8.50% in 2025, then gradually decreasing to an ultimate trend rate of 4.05% over a period of 13 years
Mortality	
Pre-retirement	PUB-2010 General Mortality table for Nonhazardous, projected with the ultimate rates from the MP-2020 mortality improvement scale using a base year of 2010
Post-retirement (non-disabled)	System-specific mortality table based on mortality experience from 2013-2022, projected with the ultimate rates from MP-2020 mortality improvement scale using a base year of 2023
Post-retirement (disabled)	PUB-2010 Disabled Mortality table, with rates multiplied by 150% for both male and female rates, projected with the ultimate rates from the MP-2020 mortality improvement scale using a base year of 2010

The single discount rate of 5.93% for CERS Nonhazardous was used to measure the total OPEB liability as of June 30, 2023. The single discount rates are based on the expected rate of return on OPEB plan investments of 6.50% and a municipal bond rate of 3.86%, as reported in Fidelity Index's "20-Year Municipal GO AA Index" as of June 30, 2023. Based on the stated assumptions and the projection of cash flows as of each fiscal year ending, each plan's fiduciary net position and future contributions were projected separately and were sufficient to finance the future benefit payments of the current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on insurance plan investments was applied to all periods of the projected benefit payments paid from the plan. However, the cost associated with the implicit employer subsidy is not currently being included in the calculation of the plan's actuarially determined contributions, and it is our understanding that any cost associated with the implicit subsidy will not be paid out of the plan's trust. Therefore, the municipal bond rate was applied to future expected benefit payments associated with the implicit subsidy. The projection of cash flows used to determine the single discount rate must include an assumption regarding actual employer contributions made each future year. Future contributions are projected assuming that each participating employer in each insurance plan contributes the actuarially determined employer contribution each future year calculated in accordance with the current funding policy.

The long-term (10-year) expected rates of return were determined using a building block method in which best estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return were developed for each asset class. The ranges were combined by weighting the expected future real rate of return by the target asset allocation percentage. The target allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rate of return for each major asset are summarized below:

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

The target allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rate of return for each major asset are summarized below:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
Equity		
Public Equity	50.00%	5.90%
Private Equity	10.00%	11.73%
Fixed Income		
Core Fixed Income	10.00%	2.45%
Specialty Credit	10.00%	3.65%
Cash	0.00%	1.39%
Inflation Protected		
Real Estate	7.00%	4.99%
Real Return	13.00%	5.15%
Expected Real Return	100.0%	5.75%
Long Term Inflation Assumption		2.50%
Expected Nominal Return for Portfolio		8.25%

The following table presents the District's proportionate share of the collective net OPEB liability of the System, calculated using the discount rate of 5.93%, as well as what the District's proportionate share of the collective net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (4.93%) or 1-percentage-point higher (6.93%) than the current rate:

	<u>1% Decrease</u>	<u>Current Discount Rate</u>	<u>1% Increase</u>
CERS	4.93%	5.93%	6.93%
District's proportionate share of net OPEB liability	371,542	(197,985)	(674,894)

Sensitivity of the District's proportionate share of the collective net OPEB liability to changes in the healthcare cost trend rates – The following presents the District's proportionate share of the collective net OPEB liability, as well as what the District's proportionate share of the collective net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using healthcare cost trend rates that were 1-percentage-point lower or 1-percentage-point higher than the current healthcare cost trend rates:

	<u>1% Decrease</u>	<u>Current Trend Rate</u>	<u>1% Increase</u>
Systems' net pension liability	(634,576)	(197,985)	338,326

OPEB plan fiduciary net position – Detailed information about the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued CERS financial report.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

NOTE I – CONTINGENCIES

The District receives funding from federal, state, and local government agencies and private contributions. These funds are to be used for designated purposes only. For government agency grants, if based upon the grantor’s review, the funds are considered not to have been used for the intended purpose, the grantors may request a refund of monies advanced, or refuse to reimburse the District for its disbursements. The amount of such future refunds and unreimbursed disbursements, if any, is not expected, to be significant. Continuation of the District’s grant programs is predicated upon the grantors’ satisfaction that the funds provided are being spent as intended and the grantors’ intent to continue their programs.

NOTE J – INSURANCE AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

The District is exposed to various forms of loss of assets associated with the risks of fire, personal liability, theft, vehicular accidents, errors and omissions, fiduciary responsibility, etc. Each of these risk areas is covered through the purchase of commercial insurance. The District has purchased certain policies, which are retrospectively related including Workers’ Compensation insurance.

NOTE K – RISK MANAGEMENT

The District is exposed to various risks of loss related to injuries to employees. To obtain insurance of workers’ compensation, errors and omissions, and general liability coverage, the District obtains quotes from commercial insurance companies. Currently, the District maintains insurance coverage through Ohio Casualty Insurance Company.

The District purchases unemployment insurance through the Kentucky School Boards Insurance Trust Unemployment Compensation Fund; however, risk has not been transferred to such fund. In addition, the District continues to carry commercial insurance for all other risks of loss. Settled claims resulting from these risks have not exceeded commercial insurance coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.

NOTE L – DEFICIT OPERATING BALANCES

The Daycare Fund had a deficit fund balance of \$126,923 at June 30, 2024. Additionally, the following funds have operations that resulted in a current year deficit of expenditures over revenues (after consideration of other financing sources and uses) resulting in a corresponding reduction of fund balance:

District Activity Fund	\$ 13,668
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NOTE M – COBRA

Under COBRA, employers are mandated to notify terminated employees of available continuing insurance coverage. Failure to comply with this requirement may put the School District at risk for a substantial loss (contingency).

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

NOTE N – TRANSFER OF FUNDS

The following transfers were made during the year:

Type	From Fund	To Fund	Purpose	Amount
Matching	General	Special Revenue	Technology Match	48,440
Operating	Capital Outlay	General Fund	Debt Service	122,507
Operating	District Activity	Student Activity	Operations	5,000
Operating	Capital Outlay	Debt Service	Debt Service	117,760
Operating	Special Revenue	General	Indirect Costs	78,408
Operating	Building Fund	General	Operations	394,048
Operating	Building Fund	Debt Service	Debt Service	<u>3,267,614</u>
Total Governmental Funds Transferred Out				4,033,777
Operating	Food Service	General Fund	Indirect Costs	<u>106,523</u>
Proprietary Funds Transferred				<u>106,523</u>
Total Transferred Funds				<u>4,140,300</u>

NOTE O – ON-BEHALF PAYMENT

For the year ended June 30, 2024, \$8,108,171 in on-behalf payments were made by the Commonwealth of Kentucky for the benefit of the District. Payments for life insurance, health insurance, Kentucky teacher retirement matching pension contributions, administrative fees, technology, and debt service were paid by the State for the District. These payments were recognized as on-behalf payments and recorded in the appropriate revenue and expense accounts. These payments were recorded as follows:

Teachers Retirement System (GASB 68 Schedule A)	\$3,918,533
Teachers Retirement system (GASB 75)	332,869
Health Insurance	3,649,302
Life Insurance	4,683
Administrative Fee	37,408
HRA/Dental/Vision	120,663
Federal Reimbursement	(225,563)
Technology	83,253
SFCC Debt Service Payments	<u>187,023</u>
Total	<u>\$8,108,171</u>

NOTE P – SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Management has reviewed subsequent events through November 8, 2024, the date the financials were available for release. There are no material events requiring disclosure.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

NOTE Q – COMMITMENTS

Mercer County School District is in the process of renovating restrooms at King Middle School. It is anticipated that the project will cost an additional \$464,932.

Mercer County School District is in the process of construction of a new elementary school. It is anticipated that the project will cost an additional \$31,891,451.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY
INFORMATION

MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN
FUND BALANCE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL - GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	ORIGINAL BUDGET	FINAL BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE WITH FINAL BUDGET POSITIVE (NEGATIVE)
REVENUES:				
Taxes	10,035,000	10,035,000	10,645,677	610,677
Earnings on Investments	85,000	85,000	350,608	265,608
State Sources	10,277,500	10,277,500	18,305,290	8,027,790
Federal Sources	5,000	5,000	5,120	120
Other Sources	1,226,150	1,226,150	912,145	(314,005)
TOTAL REVENUES	21,628,650	21,628,650	30,218,840	8,590,190
EXPENDITURES:				
Instructional	12,552,653	12,552,653	17,254,346	(4,701,693)
Student Support Services	824,356	824,356	1,129,658	(305,302)
Staff Support Services	629,059	629,059	841,171	(212,112)
District Administration	1,231,408	1,231,408	1,171,772	59,636
School Administration	1,486,046	1,486,046	2,004,927	(518,881)
Business Support Services	624,677	624,677	892,744	(268,067)
Plant Operation & Maintenance	3,467,905	3,467,905	2,789,631	678,274
Student Transportation	2,513,058	2,513,058	2,263,448	249,610
Food Service Operations	2,500	2,500	3,045	(545)
Other	4,396,988	4,396,988	276,285	4,120,703
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	27,728,650	27,728,650	28,627,027	(898,377)
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE	(6,100,000)	(6,100,000)	1,591,813	7,691,813
FUND BALANCES - BEGINNING	6,100,000	6,100,000	6,965,946	865,946
FUND BALANCES - ENDING	0	0	8,557,759	8,557,759

On-behalf payments for the general fund totaling \$7,763,198 are not budgeted by Mercer County School District.

See independent auditor's report and accompanying notes to financial statements.

MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN
FUND BALANCE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL - SPECIAL REVENUE FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	ORIGINAL BUDGET	FINAL BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE WITH FINAL BUDGET POSITIVE (NEGATIVE)
REVENUES:				
Other Local Sources	0	0	0	0
State Sources	1,484,623	1,484,623	1,464,688	(19,935)
Federal Sources	1,957,940	1,957,940	4,795,685	2,837,745
Other Sources	60,000	60,000	119,422	59,422
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>3,502,563</u>	<u>3,502,563</u>	<u>6,379,795</u>	<u>2,877,232</u>
EXPENDITURES:				
Instructional	2,495,428	2,495,428	4,327,793	(1,832,365)
Student Support Services	75,282	75,282	53,483	21,799
Staff Support Services	499,958	499,958	320,355	179,603
District Administration	0	0	0	0
School Administration	0	0	0	0
Business Support Services	0	0	0	0
Plant Operation & Maintenance	106,217	106,217	154,503	(48,286)
Student Transportation	0	0	763,693	(763,693)
Food Service Operation	0	0	7,296	(7,296)
Central Office	0	0	0	0
Community Service Operations	325,678	325,678	427,155	(101,477)
Facility Acquisition & Construction	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	126,306	(126,306)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>3,502,563</u>	<u>3,502,563</u>	<u>6,180,584</u>	<u>(2,678,021)</u>
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE	0	0	199,211	199,211
FUND BALANCES - BEGINNING	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
FUND BALANCES - ENDING	<u><u>0</u></u>	<u><u>0</u></u>	<u><u>199,211</u></u>	<u><u>199,211</u></u>

See accompanying auditor's report and accompanying notes to financial statements.

MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
SCHEDULE OF DISTRICT'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE
OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY
TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
District's proportion of net pension liability	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
District's proportionate share of the net pension liability \$	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
State of Kentucky's share of the net pension liability associated with the district	\$ 84,345,557	94,826,480	117,587,135	108,715,095	51,890,013	53,776,505	54,999,484	51,696,478	66,641,110	65,144,731
TOTAL	<u>84,345,557</u>	<u>94,826,480</u>	<u>117,587,135</u>	<u>108,715,095</u>	<u>51,890,013</u>	<u>53,776,505</u>	<u>54,999,484</u>	<u>51,696,478</u>	<u>66,641,110</u>	<u>65,144,731</u>
District's covered-employee payroll	\$ 12,829,760	12,915,230	13,073,489	13,233,907	13,220,586	13,303,729	13,473,699	14,404,700	14,256,511	14,340,349
District's proportionate share of the net pension liability as a percentage of its covered-payroll	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	45.59%	44.70%	57.04%	39.80%	59.30%	58.80%	58.27%	65.59%	56.41%	57.68%

MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
SCHEDULE OF DISTRICT'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE
OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY
COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
District's proportion of net pension liability	0.142144%	0.142016%	0.136863%	0.133499%	0.136748%	0.139750%	0.137755%	0.132847%	0.130350%	0.143404%
District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 4,612,000	6,106,021	6,738,586	7,814,107	8,328,370	9,828,680	10,565,694	8,470,038	9,423,019	9,201,530
State of Kentucky's share of the net pension liability associated with the district	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	<u>\$ 4,612,000</u>	<u>6,106,021</u>	<u>6,738,586</u>	<u>7,814,107</u>	<u>8,328,370</u>	<u>9,828,680</u>	<u>10,565,694</u>	<u>8,470,038</u>	<u>9,423,019</u>	<u>9,201,530</u>
District's covered-employee payroll	\$ 3,341,312	3,307,880	3,277,894	3,411,902	3,554,169	3,548,411	3,430,795	3,632,265	4,157,140	4,367,274
District's proportionate share of the net pension liability as a percentage of its covered-payroll	138.03%	184.59%	205.58%	229.02%	234.33%	276.99%	307.97%	233.19%	226.67%	210.69%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	66.80%	63.46%	55.50%	53.30%	53.54%	50.45%	47.81%	57.33%	52.42%	57.48%

Note: Schedule is intended to show information for the last 10 fiscal years. Additional years are not displayed.

MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
 REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
 SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE
 TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Contractually required contributions (actuarially determined)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Contributions in relation to the actuarially determined contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Covered employee payroll	\$ 12,829,760	\$ 12,915,230	\$ 13,073,489	\$ 13,233,907	\$ 13,220,586	\$ 13,303,729	\$ 13,473,699	\$ 14,404,700	\$ 14,256,511	\$ 14,340,349
Contributions as a percentage of Covered employee payroll	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
 REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
 SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE
 COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Contractually required contributions (actuarially determined)	\$ 426,017	\$ 410,839	\$ 457,266	\$ 494,043	\$ 576,487	\$ 684,843	\$ 662,143	\$ 768,951	\$ 981,263	\$ 1,019,322
Contributions in relation to the actuarially determined contributions	<u>426,017</u>	<u>410,839</u>	<u>457,266</u>	<u>494,043</u>	<u>576,487</u>	<u>684,843</u>	<u>662,143</u>	<u>768,951</u>	<u>981,263</u>	<u>1,019,322</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Covered employee payroll	\$ 3,341,312	\$ 3,307,880	\$ 3,277,894	\$ 3,411,902	\$ 3,554,169	\$ 3,548,411	\$ 3,430,795	\$ 3,632,265	\$ 4,157,140	\$ 4,367,274
Contributions as a percentage of Covered employee payroll	12.75%	12.42%	13.95%	14.48%	16.22%	19.30%	19.30%	21.17%	23.40%	23.34%

MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
SCHEDULE OF DISTRICT'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE
OF THE NET OPEB LIABILITY - MEDICAL INSURANCE
COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
District's proportion of net OPEB liability	0.133499%	0.136744%	0.139713%	0.137742%	0.132816%	0.130327%	0.143398%
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	2,683,787	2,427,863	2,349,910	3,326,050	2,542,696	2,572,021	(197,985)
State of Kentucky's share of the net OPEB liability associated with the district	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	<u><u>2,683,787</u></u>	<u><u>2,427,863</u></u>	<u><u>2,349,910</u></u>	<u><u>3,326,050</u></u>	<u><u>2,542,696</u></u>	<u><u>2,572,021</u></u>	<u><u>(197,985)</u></u>
District's covered-employee payroll	3,411,902	3,554,169	3,548,411	3,430,795	3,632,265	4,157,140	4,367,274
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability as a percentage of its covered-payroll	78.66%	68.31%	66.22%	96.95%	70.00%	61.87%	-4.53%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability	52.40%	57.62%	60.44%	51.67%	62.91%	60.95%	104.23%

Note: Schedule is intended to show information for the last 10 fiscal years. Additional years are not displayed.

MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
SCHEDULE OF DISTRICT'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE
OF THE NET OPEB LIABILITY - MEDICAL INSURANCE PLAN
TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
District's proportion of net OPEB liability	0.2134%	0.2055%	0.2109%	0.2088%	0.2124%	0.2853%	0.2020%
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	7,608,000	7,131,000	6,174,000	5,270,000	4,557,000	7,083,000	4,921,000
State of Kentucky's share of the net OPEB liability associated with the district	<u>6,215,000</u>	<u>6,146,000</u>	<u>4,986,000</u>	<u>4,222,000</u>	<u>3,701,000</u>	<u>2,327,000</u>	<u>4,148,000</u>
TOTAL	<u><u>13,823,000</u></u>	<u><u>13,277,000</u></u>	<u><u>11,160,000</u></u>	<u><u>9,492,000</u></u>	<u><u>8,258,000</u></u>	<u><u>9,410,000</u></u>	<u><u>9,069,000</u></u>
District's covered-employee payroll	\$ 13,233,907	\$ 13,220,586	\$ 13,303,729	\$ 13,473,699	\$ 14,404,700	\$ 14,256,511	\$ 14,340,349
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability as a percentage of its covered-payroll	57.49%	53.94%	46.41%	39.11%	31.64%	49.68%	34.32%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability	21.18%	25.50%	32.60%	39.05%	51.74%	47.75%	52.97%

Note: Schedule is intended to show information for the last 10 fiscal years. Additional years are not displayed.

MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
SCHEDULE OF DISTRICT'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE
OF THE NET OPEB LIABILITY - LIFE INSURANCE PLAN
TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
District's proportion of net OPEB liability	0.0000%	0.0000%	0.0000%	0.0000%	0.0000%	0.0000%	0.0000%
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
State of Kentucky's share of the net OPEB liability associated with the district	<u>83,000</u>	<u>105,000</u>	<u>116,000</u>	<u>128,000</u>	<u>49,000</u>	<u>116,000</u>	<u>103,000</u>
TOTAL	<u>83,000</u>	<u>105,000</u>	<u>116,000</u>	<u>128,000</u>	<u>49,000</u>	<u>116,000</u>	<u>103,000</u>
District's covered-employee payroll	\$ 13,233,907	\$ 13,220,586	\$ 13,303,729	\$ 13,473,699	\$ 14,404,700	\$14,256,511	\$14,340,349
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability as a percentage of its covered-payroll	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability	79.99%	75.00%	73.40%	71.57%	89.15%	73.97%	76.91%

Note: Schedule is intended to show information for the last 10 fiscal years. Additional years are not displayed.

MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
 REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
 SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MEDICAL INSURANCE PLAN
 COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Contractually required contributions (actuarially determined)	\$ 160,359	\$ 186,949	\$ 168,904	\$ 163,306	\$ 209,945	\$ 142,157	\$ -
Contributions in relation to the actuarially determined contributions	<u>160,359</u>	<u>186,949</u>	<u>168,904</u>	<u>163,306</u>	<u>209,945</u>	<u>142,157</u>	<u>-</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Covered employee payroll	\$ 3,411,902	\$ 3,554,169	\$ 3,548,111	\$ 3,430,795	\$ 3,632,265	\$ 4,157,140	\$ 4,367,274
Contributions as a percentage of Covered employee payroll	4.70%	5.26%	4.76%	4.76%	5.78%	3.39%	0.00%

Note: Schedule is intended to show information for the last 10 fiscal years. Additional years are not displayed.

MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
 REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
 SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MEDICAL INSURANCE PLAN
 TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Contractually required contributions (actuarially determined)	\$ 366,655	\$ 396,618	\$ 399,112	\$ 404,211	\$ 432,141	\$ 427,695	\$ 430,210
Contributions in relation to the actuarially determined contributions	<u>366,655</u>	<u>396,618</u>	<u>399,112</u>	<u>404,211</u>	<u>432,141</u>	<u>427,695</u>	<u>430,210</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Covered employee payroll	\$ 12,221,840	\$ 13,220,586	\$ 13,303,729	\$ 13,473,699	\$ 14,256,511	\$ 14,256,511	\$ 14,340,349
Contributions as a percentage of Covered employee payroll	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%

Note: Schedule is intended to show information for the last 10 fiscal years. Additional years are not displayed.

MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
 REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
 SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LIFE INSURANCE PLAN
 TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Contractually required contributions (actuarially determined)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Contributions in relation to the actuarially determined contributions	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Covered employee payroll	\$ 13,233,907	\$ 13,220,586	\$ 13,303,729	\$ 13,473,699	\$ 14,256,511	\$ 14,256,511	\$ 14,340,349
Contributions as a percentage of Covered employee payroll	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Note: Schedule is intended to show information for the last 10 fiscal years. Additional years are not displayed.

MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
NOTES TO REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
SCHEDULE OF DISTRICT'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE
OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

NOTE A – CHANGES OF ASSUMPTIONS

In 2014, the calculation of the Single Equivalent Interest Rate (SEIR) resulted in an assumption change from 5.16% to 5.23%.

In 2015, the calculation of the Single Equivalent Interest Rate (SEIR) resulted in an assumption change from 5.23% to 4.88%.

In the 2016 valuation, rates of withdrawal, retirement, disability and mortality were adjusted to more closely reflect actual experience. In the 2016 valuation, the Assumed Salary Scale, Price Inflation, and Wage Inflation were adjusted to reflect a decrease. In addition, the calculation of the Single Equivalent Interest Rate (SEIR) resulted in an assumption change from 4.88% to 4.20%.

In 2017, the calculation of the Single Equivalent Interest Rate (SEIR) resulted in an assumption change from 4.20% to 4.49%. • In 2018, the calculation of the Single Equivalent Interest Rate (SEIR) resulted in an assumption change from 4.49% to 7.50%.

In 2018, the calculation of the Single Equivalent Interest Rate (SEIR) resulted in an assumption change from 4.49% to 7.50%.

In the 2020 experience study, rates of withdrawal, retirement, disability, mortality, and rates of salary increases were adjusted to reflect actual experience more closely. The expectation of mortality was changed to the Pub2010 Mortality Tables (Teachers Benefit-Weighted) projected generationally with MP-2020 with various set forwards, set-backs, and adjustments for each of the groups; service retirees, contingent annuitants, disabled retirees, and actives. The assumed long-term investment rate of return was changed from 7.50 percent to 7.10 percent and the price inflation assumption was lowered from 3.00 percent to 2.50 percent. In addition, the calculation of the SEIR results in an assumption change from 7.50% to 7.10%.

MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
NOTES TO REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
SCHEDULE OF DISTRICT'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE
OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

NOTE B – METHOD AND ASSUMPTIONS USED IN CALCULATIONS OF ACTUARIALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS

The actuarially determined contribution rates in the schedule of employer contributions are calculated as of June 30, three years prior to the end of the fiscal year in which contributions are reported. The following actuarial methods and assumptions were used to determine contribution rates reported in the most recent year of the schedule:

Actuarial Cost Method	Entry age
Amortization Period	Level percentage of payroll, closed
Remaining amortization period	24.4 years
Asset valuation method	5-year smoothed fair value
Inflation	3.00%
Salary Increase	3.00% to 7.30%, includes wage inflation at 2.75%
Investment rate of return	7.50 %, net of pension plan investment expense, including inflation

NOTE C – CHANGES OF BENEFITS

2022: A new benefit tier was added for members joining the System on and after January 1, 2022. A complete listing of benefits can be found within the reports at <https://trs.ky.gov/administration/financial-reports-information/>.

MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
NOTES TO REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
SCHEDULE OF DISTRICT'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE
OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM

NOTE A – CHANGES OF ASSUMPTIONS

2015

The following changes were made by the Kentucky Legislature and reflected in the valuation performed as of June 30, 2015:

The assumed investment rate of return was decreased from 7.75% to 7.50%.

The assumed inflation rate was reduced from 3.5% to 3.255%.

The assumed rate of wage inflation was reduced from 1.00% to .75%.

Payroll growth assumption was reduced from 4.5% to 4%.

The mortality table used for active members is RP-2000 Combined Mortality Table projected with Scale BB to 2013 (multiplied by 50% for males and 30% for females).

For healthy retired members and beneficiaries, the mortality table used is the RP-2000 Combined Mortality Table projected with Scale BB to 2013 (set back 1 year for females). For disabled members, the RP-2000 Combined Mortality Table projected with Scale BB to 2013 (set back 4 years for males) is used for the period after disability retirement.

The assumed rates of Retirement, Withdrawal and Disability were updated to more accurately reflect experience.

2016

There were no changes of assumptions for the year ended June 30, 2016.

2017

The following changes were made by the KRS Board of Trustees and reflected in the valuation performed as of June 30, 2017:

The assumed rate of inflation was reduced to 2.30% from 3.25%

The assumed salary increases were reduced to 3.05%, average, from 4.00%, average including inflation

The assumed investment rate of return was reduced to 6.25% from 7.50%

2018

There were no changes in assumptions.

2019

The following changes were made by the KRS Board of Trustees and reflected in the valuation performed as of June 30, 2019:

The projected salary increase was changed to 3.3-11.5% from 3.05%

MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
NOTES TO REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
SCHEDULE OF DISTRICT'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE
OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM (CONTINUED)

The asset valuation method was changed to 20% of the difference between the market value assets and the expected actuarial value of assets if recognized from 5-year smoothed market.

The payroll growth rate was changed to 2.0% from 4.0%.

The investment rate of return was change to 6.25% from 7.5%.

The inflation rate was changed to 2.3% from 3.25%.

2020

There were no changes of assumptions for the year ended June 30, 2020.

2021

There were no changes of assumptions for the year ended June 30, 2021.

2022

There were no changes of assumptions for the year ended June 30, 2022.

2023

The Board of Trustees adopted new actuarial assumptions on May 9, 2023. These assumptions are documented in the report titled "2022 Actuarial Experience Study for the Period Ending June 30, 2022", and include a change in the investment return assumption from 6.25% to 6.50%. A copy of this study can be found at <https://www.kyret.ky.gov/About/Board-ofTrustees/Experience%20Studies/2022%20CERS%20Actuarial%20Experience%20Study%20for%20the%20Period%20Ending%20June%2030,%202022.pdf>.

MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
 NOTES TO REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
 SCHEDULE OF DISTRICT'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE
 OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM

NOTE B – METHOD AND ASSUMPTIONS USED IN CALCULATIONS OF ACTUARIALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS

The following actuarial methods and assumptions were used to determine the rates reported in that schedule. Assumptions have been listed for the non-hazardous plan.

Valuation Date	June 30, 2021
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal
Asset Valuation Method	20% of the difference between market value of assets and the expected actuarial value of assets is recognized
Amortization Method	Level Percent of Pay
Amortization Period	30-year closed period at June 30, 2019 Gains/losses incurring after 2019 will be amortized over separate 20-year amortization bases
Payroll Growth Rate	2.00%
Investment Return	6.25%
Inflation	2.30%
Salary Increases	3.30% to 10.30%, varies by service
Mortality	System-specific mortality table based on mortality experience from 2013-2018, projected with the ultimate rates from MP-2014 mortality improvement scale using a base year of 2019
Phase-In Provision	Board certified rate is phased into the actuarially determined rate in accordance with HB 362 enacted in 2018

NOTE C – CHANGES OF BENEFITS

There was a relatively small change for future retirees in the nonhazardous plans. But as the minimum separation period was previously three months in almost every circumstance, GRS assumed that there would be a one percent (1%) increase in the rate of retirement for each of the first two years a nonhazardous member becomes retirement eligible under the age of 65 in order to reflect a shift in the retirement pattern. The total pension liability as of June 30, 2023, for the nonhazardous plans in determined using these updated benefits provisions. There have been no other plan provision changes that would materially impact the total pension liability since June 30, 2022.

MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
NOTES TO REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
SCHEDULE OF DISTRICT'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE
OF THE NET OPEB LIABILITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

NOTE A – CHANGES OF ASSUMPTIONS

2017

There were no changes in assumptions.

2018

There were no changes in assumptions.

2019

There were no changes in assumptions.

2020

Health Care Cost Trend Rates were updated for the June 30, 2019 valuation.

2021

Health Trust and Life Trust

In the 2020 experience study, rates of withdrawal, retirement, disability, mortality, and rates of salary increases were adjusted to reflect actual experience more closely. The expectation of mortality was changed to the Pub2010 Mortality Tables (Teachers Benefit-Weighted) projected generationally with MP-2020 with various set forwards, set-backs, and adjustments for each of the groups; service retirees, contingent annuitants, disabled retirees, and actives.

The assumed long-term investment rate of return was changed from 8.00% for the Health Trust and 7.50% for the Life Trust to 7.10%. The price inflation assumption was lowered from 3.00% to 2.50%.

The rates of member participation and spousal participation were adjusted to reflect actual experience more closely.

2022

The health care trend rates were updated to reflect future anticipated experience.

2023

The TRS 4 retirement decrements were updated to reflect future anticipated experience.

MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
NOTES TO REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
SCHEDULE OF DISTRICT'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE
OF THE NET OPEB LIABILITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

NOTE B – METHOD AND ASSUMPTIONS USED IN CALCULATIONS OF ACTUARIALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS

The Health Trust is not funded based on an actuarially determined contribution, but instead is funded based on statutorily determined amounts.

NOTE C – CHANGES OF BENEFITS

2018: With the passage of House Bill 471, the eligibility for non-single subsidies (NSS) for KEHP-participating members who retired prior to July 1, 2010 is restored, but the State will only finance, via its KEHP “shared responsibility” contributions, the costs of the NSS related to those KEHP-participating members who retired on or after July 1, 2010.

2022: A new benefit tier was added for members joining the System on and after January 1, 2022. A description of benefit provisions applicable to these members can be found at https://trs.ky.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/TRS-GASB-75-Report_6.30.2022-MD-6.30.2023-RD-FINAL.pdf.

MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
NOTES TO REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
SCHEDULE OF DISTRICT'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE
OF THE NET OPEB LIABILITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM

NOTE A – CHANGES OF ASSUMPTIONS

2017

The assumed investment return was changed from 7.5% to 6.2%

The price inflation assumption was changed from 3.25% to 2.30% which resulted in a .95% decrease in the salary increase assumption at all years of service

The payroll growth assumption (*applicable for the amortization of unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities) was changed from 4.0% to 2.0%

For the non-hazardous plan, the single discount rate changed from 6.89% to 5.84%. For the hazardous plan the single discount rate changed from 7.37% to 5.96%

2018

There were no changes in assumptions.

2019

The investment rate of return was changed to 6.25% from 7.0%.

The projected salary increases changed to 3.05-11.55% from 4.0%.

The inflation rate changed to 2.3% from 3.25%.

The payroll growth rate changed to 2.0% from 4.0%.

2020

There were no changes in assumptions.

2021

The single discount rates used to calculate the total OPEB liability changed since the prior year. The assumed increase in future health care costs, or trend assumption, was reviewed during the June 30, 2020 valuation process and was updated to better reflect the plan's long-term healthcare costs.

2022

There were no changes in assumptions.

2023

The CERS Board of Trustees adopted new actuarial assumptions on May 9, 2023. The KRS Board of Trustees adopted new actuarial assumptions on June 5, 2023. These assumptions are documented in the report titled "2022 Actuarial Experiences Study for the Period Ending June 30, 2022". Additionally, the single discount rates used to calculate the total OPEB liability within each plan changed since the prior year. A copy of this study can be found at <https://www.kyret.ky.gov/About/Board-ofTrustees/Experience%20Studies/2022%20CERS%20Actuarial%20Experience%20Study%20for%20the%20Period%20Ending%20June%2030,%202022.pdf>.

MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
 NOTES TO REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
 SCHEDULE OF DISTRICT'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE
 OF THE NET OPEB LIABILITY
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM (CONTINUED)

NOTE B – METHOD AND ASSUMPTIONS USED IN CALCULATIONS OF ACTUARIALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS

Methods and assumptions used in the actuarially determined contributions – The actuarially determined contribution rates, as a percentage of payroll, used to determine the actuarially determined contribution amounts in the Schedule of Employer Contributions are calculated as of the indicated valuation date. The following actuarial methods and assumptions (from the indicated actuarial valuations) were used to determine contribution rates reported in that schedule for the year ending June 30, 2021:

Valuation Date	June 30, 2021
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal
Asset Valuation Method	20% of the difference between market value of assets and the expected actuarial value of assets is recognized
Amortization Method	Level Percent of Pay
Amortization Period	30-year closed period at June 30, 2019 Gains/losses incurring after 2019 will be amortized over separate closed 20-year amortization bases
Payroll Growth Rate	2.00%
Investment Return	6.25%
Inflation	2.30%
Salary Increases	3.30% to 10.30%, varies by service
Mortality	System-specific mortality table based on mortality experience from 2013-2018, projected with the ultimate rates from MP-2014 mortality improvement scale using a base year of 2019
Healthcare Trend Rates:	
Pre - 65	Initial trend starting at 6.30% at January 1, 2023 and gradually decreasing to an ultimate trend rate of 4.05% over a period of 13 years. The 2022 premiums were known at the time of valuation and were incorporated into the liability measurement.
Post - 65	Initial trend starting at 6.30% at January 1, 2023 and gradually decreasing to an ultimate trend rate of 4.05% over a period of 13 years. The 2022 premiums were known at the time of valuation and were incorporated into the liability measurement.

NOTE C – CHANGES OF BENEFITS

There was a relatively small change for future retirees in the nonhazardous plans. But as the minimum separation period was previously three months in almost every circumstance, GRS assumed that there would be a one percent (1%) increase in the rate of retirement for each of the first two years a nonhazardous member becomes retirement eligible under the age of 65 in order to reflect a shift in the retirement pattern. The total pension liability as of June 30, 2023, for the nonhazardous plans is determined using these updated benefits provisions. There have been no other plan provision changes that would materially impact the total pension liability since June 30, 2022.

OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY
INFORMATION

MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
 COMBINING BALANCE SHEET
 NON-MAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
 JUNE 30, 2024

	CAPITAL OUTLAY FUND	BUILDING FUND	DEBT SERVICE FUND	DISTRICT ACTIVITY FUND	STUDENT ACTIVITY FUND	TOTAL NON-MAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
ASSETS:						
Cash & Cash Equivalents	510	1,219	0	525,646	74,235	601,610
Accounts Receivable						0
TOTAL ASSETS	510	1,219	0	525,646	74,235	601,610
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES:						
Liabilities:						
Accounts Payable						0
Total Liabilities	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fund Balances:						
Restricted for:						
SFCC Escrow	510	1,219				1,729
School Activities				525,646		525,646
Student Activities					74,235	74,235
Total Fund Balances	510	1,219	0	525,646	74,235	601,610
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	510	1,219	0	525,646	74,235	601,610

See independent auditor's report and accompanying notes to financial statements.

MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
 COMBINING STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
 NON-MAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	CAPITAL OUTLAY FUND	BUILDING FUND	DEBT SERVICE FUND	DISTRICT ACTIVITY FUND	STUDENT ACTIVITY FUND	TOTAL NON-MAJOR GOVERNMENT FUNDS
REVENUES:						
Taxes		2,549,805				2,549,805
Intergovernmental - State	240,267	1,111,857	187,023			1,539,147
Other Sources			781	446,280	117,886	564,947
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>240,267</u>	<u>3,661,662</u>	<u>187,804</u>	<u>446,280</u>	<u>117,886</u>	<u>4,653,899</u>
EXPENDITURES:						
Instructional				432,853	66,695	499,548
Staff Support Services				22,095		22,095
Student Transportation					33,213	33,213
Debt Service:						
Principal			2,610,000			2,610,000
Interest			963,178			963,178
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3,573,178</u>	<u>454,948</u>	<u>99,908</u>	<u>4,128,034</u>
EXCESS(DEFICIT) REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	240,267	3,661,662	(3,385,374)	(8,668)	17,978	525,865
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES(USES):						
Operating Transfers In			3,385,374	0	5,000	3,390,374
Operating Transfers Out	(240,267)	(3,661,662)	0	(5,000)	0	(3,906,929)
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	<u>(240,267)</u>	<u>(3,661,662)</u>	<u>3,385,374</u>	<u>(5,000)</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>(516,555)</u>
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(13,668)</u>	<u>22,978</u>	<u>9,310</u>
FUND BALANCES - BEGINNING	<u>510</u>	<u>1,219</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>539,314</u>	<u>51,257</u>	<u>592,300</u>
FUND BALANCES - ENDING	<u><u>510</u></u>	<u><u>1,219</u></u>	<u><u>0</u></u>	<u><u>525,646</u></u>	<u><u>74,235</u></u>	<u><u>601,610</u></u>

See independent auditor's report and accompanying notes to financial statements.

MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
 COMBINING STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND FUND BALANCES
 STUDENT ACTIVITY FUNDS
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	<u>BALANCE</u> <u>JULY 1, 2023</u>	<u>REVENUES</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>BALANCE</u> <u>JUNE 30, 2024</u>
Mercer County Senior High School	35,542	58,040	44,305	49,277
King Middle School	6,141	29,190	24,955	10,376
Mercer Central	2,320	650	554	2,416
Mercer County Intermediate School	5,024	13,850	14,397	4,477
Mercer County Elementary School	2,230	21,156	15,697	7,689
Fund Balance	<u>51,257</u>	<u>122,886</u>	<u>99,908</u>	<u>74,235</u>

See independent accountant's report and accompanying notes to financial statements.

MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND FUND BALANCE
HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITY FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	BALANCE JULY 1, 2023	RECEIPTS	DISBURSEMENTS	FUND BALANCE JUNE 30, 2024	FUND BALANCE JUNE 30, 2024
Titan School Store	202	0	0	202	202
Student Vending	674	0	0	674	674
Pep Club	841	146	330	657	657
Weights	1,334	0	0	1,334	1,334
THIRST	24	0	0	24	24
Band SAF	1,255	0	1,254	1	1
Beta Club	1,110	650	407	1,353	1,353
Beta Scholarship	170	0	0	170	170
Chess Club	677	45	0	722	722
MCHS Book Club	472	167	202	437	437
Y Club	897	10,468	11,334	31	31
FCA Club	852	106	0	958	958
Republican Club	111	0	111	0	0
Unity Club	206	0	0	206	206
FFA Club	19,342	19,554	15,583	23,313	23,313
FCCLA CLUB	2,739	4,736	1,516	5,959	5,959
Engineering Club	674	10	0	684	684
Educator Rising	88	595	510	173	173
Natinal Honor Society	776	2,429	2,357	848	848
Spanish Club	957	323	462	818	818
Student Council	975	1,041	666	1,350	1,350
Key Club	66	0	0	66	66
Film	121	0	121	0	0
Envirothon Team	75	0	0	75	75
Academic Team	372	0	0	372	372
UM Club	328	0	0	328	328
Field Trips	91	0	0	91	91
DECA Club	113	1,241	359	995	995
Project Graduation	0	16,529	9,093	7,436	7,436
General	0	0	0	0	0
Total All Funds	<u>35,542</u>	<u>58,040</u>	<u>44,305</u>	<u>49,277</u>	<u>0</u>
Transfer Out to GF			0	0	0
Total	<u><u>35,542</u></u>	<u><u>58,040</u></u>	<u><u>44,305</u></u>	<u><u>49,277</u></u>	<u><u>0</u></u>

MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

<u>FEDERAL GRANTOR/PASS-THROUGH</u> <u>GRANTOR/PROGRAM TITLE</u>	<u>CFDA</u> <u>NUMBER</u>	<u>PASS</u> <u>THROUGH</u> <u>NUMBER</u> <u>(if applicable)</u>	<u>MUNIS</u> <u>PROJECT</u> <u>NUMBER</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
<u>U.S. Department of Education</u>				
Passed-Through Department of Education				
Title I - Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010	3100002	310J	422,667
Title I - Parent Involvement	84.010	3100002	310JM	5,264
Title I - Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010	3100002	310K	558,844
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies Total				986,775
 Migrant Education - State Grant Program	 84.011	 3110002	 311KR	 721
 Title I, Neglected and Delinquent Children and Youth	 84.013	 313K	 313K	 30,000
 Title II Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants	 84.367	 3230002	 401J	 1,055
Title II Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants	84.367	3230002	401K	119,772
Title II Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants				120,827
 Perkins Voc.	 84.048	 3710006	 348JA	 1,744
Perkins Voc.	84.048	3710006	348K	28,002
Perkins Voc. Total				29,746
 Title IV, Part A - Student Support and Academic Enrichment	 84.424	 3420002	 552IS	 10,444
Title IV, Part A - Student Support and Academic Enrichment	84.424	3420002	552IT	391
Title IV, Part A - Student Support and Academic Enrichment	84.424	3420002	552JS	32,791
Title IV, Part A - Student Support and Academic Enrichment	84.424	3420002	552JT	3,500
Title IV, Part A - Student Support and Academic Enrichment	84.424	3420002	552JW	15,278
Title IV, Part A - Student Support and Academic Enrichment	84.424	3420002	552KS	6,250
Title IV, Part A - Student Support and Academic Enrichment	84.424	3420002	552KT	2,000
Title IV, Part A - Student Support and Academic Enrichment	84.424	3420002	552JW	11,022
Title IV, Part A - Student Support and Academic Enrichment Total				81,676
 IDEA - Special Education - Grants to State	 84.027	 3810002	 337J	 121,552
IDEA - Special Education - Grants to State	84.027	3810002	337K	628,431
IDEA - Special Education - Preschool Grants	84.173	3800002	343I	103
IDEA - Special Education - Preschool Grants	84.173	3800002	343J	705
IDEA - Special Education - Preschool Grants	84.173	3800002	343K	55,209
COVID-19 - ARP IDEA	84.027X	4910002	478I	16,731
Special Education Cluster				822,731
 COVID-19 - Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund	 84.425D	 4200002	 554G	 54,595
COVID-19 - Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund	84.425D	4200002	554GD	185,374
COVID-19 - Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund	84.425D	4200002	554GS	87,371
COVID-19 - Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund	84.425U	4300002	563J	33,470
COVID-19 - Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund	84.425C	4200004	564GF	45,792
COVID-19 - Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund	84.425U	4300002	473G	1,603,891

COVID-19 - Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund	84.425U	4300005	473GL	330,835
COVID-19 - Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund	84.425U	4300005	473GW	3,344
COVID-19 Education Stabilization Fund Total				<u>2,344,672</u>
Passed Through Berea College				
Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs	84.334S	614J	614J	600
Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs	84.334S	614K	614K	14,296
Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs Total				<u>14,896</u>
Total U.S. Department of Education				<u>4,432,044</u>
<u>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services</u>				
Passed-Through Kentucky Department of Education				
COVID-19 Preschool Partnership Grant	93.575	562JP	562JP	2,315
COVID-19 Preschool Partnership Grant	93.575	562KP	562KP	122,180
COVID-19 Preschool Partnership Fund Total				<u>124,495</u>
<u>U.S. Department of Agriculture</u>				
Passed-Through State Department of Education				
Summer Meal Program	10.559	7690024-23	7690024-23	57,628
Summer Meal Program	10.559	7740023-23	7740023-23	560,261
National School Lunchroom	10.555	7750002-23	7750002-23	286,552
National School Lunchroom	10.555	7750002-24	7750002-24	1,082,716
National School Lunchroom	10.555	9980000-23	9980000-23	84,731
School Breakfast Program	10.553	7760005-23	7760005-23	102,324
School Breakfast Program	10.553	7760005-24	7760005-24	383,918
Child Nutrition Cluster				<u>2,558,130</u>
Child & Adult Care Food Program	10.558	7790021-23	7790021-23	11,662
Child & Adult Care Food Program	10.558	7790021-24	7790021-24	28,339
Child & Adult Care Food Program	10.558	7800016-23	7800016-23	809
Child & Adult Care Food Program	10.558	7800016-24	7800016-24	1,967
Child & Adult Care Food Program Total				<u>42,777</u>
State Administrative Expenses for Child Nutrition	10.560	7700001-23	7700001-23	3,793
Passed Through State Department of Agriculture				
Food Distribution	10.565	057502-10	057502-10	126,322
Total U.S. Department of Agriculture				<u>2,731,022</u>
Total Federal Financial Assistance				<u><u>7,287,561</u></u>

MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
NOTES TO SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE A – BASIS OF PRESENTATION

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

NOTE B – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Expenditures reported on the Schedule are reported on the accrual basis of accounting for proprietary funds and the modified accrual basis of accounting for governmental funds. Such expenditures are recognized following the cost principles contained in the Uniform Guidance wherein certain types of expenditures are not allowable or are limited as to reimbursement. Negative amounts shown on the Schedule represent adjustments or credits made in the normal course of business to amounts reported as expenditures in prior years. Pass-through entity identifying numbers are present where available.

NOTE C – FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Nonmonetary assistance is reported in the schedule at the fair value of the commodities disbursed.

NOTE D – DE MINIMIS COST RATE

The District did not elect to use the 10 percent de minimis cost rate as allowed under the Uniform Guidance.

NOTE E – SUBRECIPIENTS

There were no subrecipients during the fiscal year.

MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

Section I – Summary of Auditor’s Results

Financial Statements

Type of audit issued: Unmodified

Internal control over financial reporting:

- Material weakness(es) identified? _____ Yes X No
- Significant deficiency(ies) identified that are not considered to be material weakness(es)? _____ Yes X None Reported

Noncompliance material to financial statements noted? _____ Yes X No

Federal Awards

Internal control over major programs?

- Material weakness(es) identified? _____ Yes X No
- Significant deficiency(ies) identified that are not considered to be material weakness(es)? _____ Yes X None Reported

Type of auditor’s report issued on compliance for major programs (unmodified):

Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with 2 CFR section 200.516(a) ? _____ Yes X No

Identification of major programs:

<u>CFDA Number</u>	<u>Name of Federal Program or Cluster</u>
84.425C/84.425D/84.425U	COVID-19 Education Stabilization Fund

Dollar threshold used to distinguish between Type A and Type B programs: \$750,000

Auditee qualified as low-risk auditee? X Yes _____ No

Section II – Financial Statement of Findings

No matters were reported.

Section III – Federal Award Findings and Questioned Costs

No matters were reported.

MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHEDULE OF PRIOR YEAR AUDIT FINDINGS
JUNE 30, 2024

There were no prior year audit findings.

WHITE AND COMPANY, P.S.C.
Certified Public Accountants
219 South Proctor Knott Avenue
Lebanon, Kentucky 40033
(270) 692-2102
Fax (270) 692-2101

Charles M. White, CPA
Stephanie A. Abell, CPA

Email: charles.white@whitecpas.com

November 8, 2024

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL
REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH
GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

Members of the Board of Education
Mercer County School District
Harrodsburg, Kentucky

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, and *Appendix I to the Independent Auditor's Contract – Audit Extension Request*, *Appendix II to the Independent Auditor's Contract – Instructions for Submission of the Audit Contract, Audit Acceptance Statement, AFR and Balance Sheet, Statement of Certification, and Audit Report*, the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Mercer County School District, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Mercer County School District's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated November 8, 2024.

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

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

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity'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 Mercer County School District's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*. In addition, the results of our tests disclosed no material instances of noncompliance of specific state statutes or regulation identified in *Appendix II of the Independent Auditor's Contract – State Audit Requirements*.

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 entity'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 entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Sincerely,

White and Company, P.S.C.

Certified Public Accountants

WHITE AND COMPANY, P.S.C.
Certified Public Accountants
219 South Proctor Knott Avenue
Lebanon, Kentucky 40033
(270) 692-2102
Fax (270) 692-2101

Charles M. White, CPA
Stephanie A. Abell, CPA

Email: charles.white@whitecpas.com

November 8, 2024

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR EACH MAJOR
PROGRAM AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE REQUIRED
BY THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE**

Members of the Board of Education
Mercer County School District
Harrodsburg, Kentucky

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We have audited Mercer County School District's compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the OMB *Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of Mercer County School District's major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2024. Mercer County School District's major federal programs are identified in the summary of auditor's results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

In our opinion, Mercer County School District complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2024.

Basis for Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United State of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance); and *Appendix I to the Independent Auditor's Contract – Audit Extension Request, Appendix II to the Independent Auditor's Contract – Instructions for Submission of the Audit Contract, Audit Acceptance Statement, AFR and Balance Sheet, Statement of Certification, and Audit Report*. Our responsibilities under those standards and the Uniform Guidance are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section of our report.

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

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

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

Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of Compliance

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

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance we:

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

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

Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

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

compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

White and Company, P.S.C.

Certified Public Accountants

WHITE AND COMPANY, P.S.C.
Certified Public Accountants
219 South Proctor Knott Avenue
Lebanon, Kentucky 40033
(270) 692-2102
Fax (270) 692-2101

Charles M. White, CPA
Stephanie A. Abell, CPA

Email charles.white@whitecpas.com

November 8, 2024

MANAGEMENT LETTER

Members of the Board of Education
Mercer County School District
Harrodsburg, Kentucky

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of Mercer County School District for the year ended June 30, 2023, we considered its internal control in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements. Our professional standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. We feel that the District's financial statements are free of material misstatement. However, we offer the following suggestions that we feel will strengthen your organization's internal control structure.

Prior Year Recommendations – School Activity Funds:

None.

Current Year Recommendations – School Activity Funds:

None.

Prior Year Recommendations – District Level:

2023-1 Current Year Recommendation:

During prior year testing, an invoice for attendance at a conference was reviewed. The invoice detailed 5 attendees. It was noted that 4 of the 5 attendees were registered prior to the approval of the corresponding purchase order. While we believe that the District employees had approval to attend prior to registering, we recommend that purchase orders be properly completed and approved prior to participants registering since prior approval is a key control for the District.

Current Year Status:

No such instances were found during current year testing.

Current Year Recommendations – District Level:

2024-1 Current Year Recommendation:

During current year testing, the District's pledged collateral was reviewed as a part of cash procedures. It was noted that the District was undercollateralized significantly at June 30, 2024. We recommend that management obtain monthly reports from its financial institution to ensure both the financial institution and management are reviewing the data monthly to ensure proper collateralization.

Management Response:

We will request that our bank send us a report for pledged collateral monthly and will review that total to ensure Mercer County School District is fully collateralized.

We would like to offer our assistance throughout the year if and when new or unusual situations arise. Our awareness of new developments when they occur would help to ensure that the District is complying with requirements such as those mentioned above.

Sincerely,

White and Company, P.S.C.

Certified Public Accountants

WHITE AND COMPANY, P.S.C.
Certified Public Accountants
219 South Proctor Knott Avenue
Lebanon, Kentucky 40033
(270) 692-2102
Fax (270) 692-2101

Charles M. White, CPA
Stephanie A. Abell, CPA

Email: charles.white@whitecpas.com

November 8, 2024

Members of the Board of Education
Mercer County School District
Harrodsburg, Kentucky

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Mercer County School District for the year ended June 30, 2024. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards (and, if applicable, *Government Auditing Standards* and the Uniform Guidance), as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated April 17, 2024. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Significant Audit Matters:

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by Mercer County School District are described in Note A to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during 2024. We noted no transactions entered into by Mercer County School District during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimate affecting Mercer County School District's financial statements was:

Management's estimate of the sick leave liability is based on current pay rates and those currently eligible for retirement. We evaluated the methods, assumptions, and data used to develop the sick leave liability in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such misstatements. In addition, none of the misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures and corrected by management were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to each opinion unit's financial statements taken as a whole.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated November 8, 2024.

Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to Mercer County School District's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

Other Audit Findings or Issues

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as Mercer County School District's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

Other Matters

We applied certain limited procedures to management's discussion and analysis and budgetary comparison information, which are required supplementary information (RSI) that supplements the basic financial statements. Our procedures consisted of inquiries of management regarding 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 did not audit the RSI and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

We were engaged to report on the combining statements for non-major governmental funds and the combining statement for school activity funds, and the statement of receipts, disbursements, and fund balance – High School Activity Fund which accompany the financial statements but are not RSI. With respect to this supplementary information, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

We were not engaged to report on the budgetary comparison information on pages 54 and 55, or on the schedules of the district's proportionate share of net pension liabilities and other post-employment benefit plans on pages 56-57 and 60-62 or on the schedules of contributions to the County Employees Retirement System and Teachers Retirement System pension plans or the County Employees Retirement System and Teachers Retirement System other post-employment benefit plans on pages 58-59 and 63-65, which accompany the financial statements but are not RSI. Such information has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements, and accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

Restriction on Use

This information is intended solely for the information and use of Members of the Board of Education and management of Mercer County School District and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Sincerely,

White and Company, P.S.C.

Certified Public Accountants