

**HANCOCK COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT
(Including Independent Auditor's Report)**

**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED
JUNE 30, 2024**

Hancock County Board of Education

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Section I

Financial



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Honorable Brian P. Kemp, Governor of Georgia
Members of the General Assembly of the State of Georgia
Members of the State Board of Education
and
Dr. Anton Anthony, Superintendent and Members of the
Hancock County Board of Education

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and fiduciary activities of the Hancock County Board of Education (School District) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the School District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and fiduciary activities of the School District as of June 30, 2024, and the respective changes in financial position 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 (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report.

We are required to be independent of the School District and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

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

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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

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

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

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

Required Supplementary Information

Management has omitted the Management's Discussion and Analysis that accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such missing information, 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. Our opinions on the basic financial statements are not affected by this missing information.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the required supplementary information listed in the table of contents 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 GAAS, 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 appropriate evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Supplementary Information

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

The supplementary 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. Such 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 GAAS. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated February 12, 2026 on our consideration of the 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 School District's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the School District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

A copy of this report has been filed as a permanent record and made available to the press of the State, as provided for by Official Code of Georgia Annotated section 50-6-24.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg S. Griffin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line extending from the end.

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

February 12, 2026

Hancock County Board of Education

HANCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
JUNE 30, 2024

EXHIBIT "A"

	GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES
<u>ASSETS</u>	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 2,206,204.00
Accounts Receivable, Net	
Taxes	837,370.00
State Government	449,937.00
Federal Government	4,304,583.00
Other	6,730.00
Inventories	13,959.00
Prepaid Items	52,945.00
Capital Assets, Non-Depreciable	189,698.00
Capital Assets, Depreciable (Net of Accumulated Depreciation)	9,002,240.00
Total Assets	<u>17,063,666.00</u>
<u>DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES</u>	
Related to Defined Benefit Pension Plan	4,325,442.00
Related to OPEB Plan	2,331,438.00
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>6,656,880.00</u>
<u>LIABILITIES</u>	
Accounts Payable	1,051,159.00
Salaries and Benefits Payable	2,429,180.06
Deposits and Unearned Revenues	7,594.00
Net Pension Liability	13,148,645.00
Net OPEB Liability	8,199,067.00
Total Liabilities	<u>24,835,645.06</u>
<u>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</u>	
Related to Defined Benefit Pension Plan	802,001.00
Related to OPEB Plan	5,444,667.00
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>6,246,668.00</u>
<u>NET POSITION</u>	
Investment in Capital Assets	9,191,938.00
Restricted for	
Continuation of Federal Programs	1,190,567.00
Capital Projects	1,547,588.00
Unrestricted (Deficit)	(19,291,860.06)
Total Net Position	<u>\$ (7,361,767.06)</u>

HANCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

EXHIBIT "B"

	EXPENSES	PROGRAM REVENUES		NET (EXPENSES) REVENUES AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION
		CHARGES FOR SERVICES	OPERATING GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS	CAPITAL GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS
GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES				
Instruction	\$ 9,673,171.17	\$ 238,214.00	\$ 6,544,863.00	\$ -
Support Services				
Pupil Services	900,854.00	-	698,750.00	-
Improvement of Instructional Services	1,095,169.00	-	1,282,000.00	-
Educational Media Services	154,615.00	-	107,314.00	-
General Administration	599,128.48	-	472,883.00	-
School Administration	1,322,555.00	-	799,629.00	-
Business Administration	550,795.00	-	88,906.00	-
Maintenance and Operation of Plant	2,916,988.65	-	1,450,546.00	-
Student Transportation Services	1,456,891.84	-	1,139,588.00	440,550.00
Central Support Services	387,771.00	-	138,656.00	-
Other Support Services	218,597.00	-	295.00	-
Operations of Non-Instructional Services				
Food Services	1,203,816.96	51,017.00	1,120,194.00	-
Total Governmental Activities	\$ 20,480,353.06	\$ 289,231.00	\$ 13,843,624.00	\$ 440,550.00
General Revenues				
Taxes				
Property Taxes				
For Maintenance and Operations				5,863,012.00
Sales Taxes				
Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax				
For Capital Projects				799,774.00
Other Sales Taxes				66,617.00
Investment Earnings				67,923.00
Miscellaneous				271,347.00
Total General Revenues				7,068,673.00
Change in Net Position				1,161,724.94
Net Position - Beginning of Year				(8,523,492.00)
Net Position - End of Year				<u><u>\$ (7,361,767.06)</u></u>

HANCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
BALANCE SHEET
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
JUNE 30, 2024

EXHIBIT "C"

	GENERAL FUND	CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND	TOTAL
<u>ASSETS</u>			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,232,662.00	\$ 973,542.00	\$ 2,206,204.00
Accounts Receivable, Net			
Taxes	697,154.00	140,216.00	837,370.00
State Government	449,937.00	-	449,937.00
Federal Government	4,304,583.00	-	4,304,583.00
Other	6,730.00	-	6,730.00
Due from Other Funds	-	433,830.00	433,830.00
Inventories	13,959.00	-	13,959.00
Prepaid Items	52,945.00	-	52,945.00
	<u>6,757,970.00</u>	<u>1,547,588.00</u>	<u>8,305,558.00</u>
Total Assets	\$ <u>6,757,970.00</u>	\$ <u>1,547,588.00</u>	\$ <u>8,305,558.00</u>
<u>LIABILITIES</u>			
Accounts Payable	\$ 1,051,159.00	\$ -	\$ 1,051,159.00
Salaries and Benefits Payable	2,429,180.06	-	2,429,180.06
Due to Other Funds	433,830.00	-	433,830.00
Deposits and Unearned Revenues	7,594.00	-	7,594.00
Total Liabilities	<u>3,921,763.06</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,921,763.06</u>
<u>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</u>			
Unavailable Revenue - Property Taxes	554,644.00	-	554,644.00
Unavailable Revenue - Federal Funds	885,989.00	-	885,989.00
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>1,440,633.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,440,633.00</u>
<u>FUND BALANCES</u>			
Nonspendable	66,904.00	-	66,904.00
Restricted	290,619.00	1,547,588.00	1,838,207.00
Assigned	42,299.00	-	42,299.00
Unassigned	995,751.94	-	995,751.94
Total Fund Balances	<u>1,395,573.94</u>	<u>1,547,588.00</u>	<u>2,943,161.94</u>
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Fund Balances	\$ <u>6,757,970.00</u>	\$ <u>1,547,588.00</u>	\$ <u>8,305,558.00</u>

HANCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RECONCILIATION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS BALANCE SHEET
TO THE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
JUNE 30, 2024

EXHIBIT "D"

Total fund balances - governmental funds (Exhibit "C")	\$	2,943,161.94
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Net Position are different because:		
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported in the funds.		
Land	\$	189,698.00
Buildings and improvements		16,192,804.00
Equipment		5,151,823.00
Land Improvements		1,954,819.00
Accumulated depreciation		<u>(14,297,206.00)</u>
		9,191,938.00
Some liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.		
Net pension liability	\$	(13,148,645.00)
Net OPEB liability		<u>(8,199,067.00)</u>
		(21,347,712.00)
Deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to pensions/OPEB are applicable to future periods and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.		
Related to pensions	\$	3,523,441.00
Related to OPEB		<u>(3,113,229.00)</u>
		410,212.00
Taxes that are not available to pay for current period expenditures are deferred in the funds.		554,644.00
Revenue that are not available to pay current period expenditures are deferred in the funds.		<u>885,989.00</u>
Net position of governmental activities (Exhibit "A")	\$	<u><u>(7,361,767.06)</u></u>

HANCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

EXHIBIT "E"

	GENERAL FUND	CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND	TOTAL
<u>REVENUES</u>			
Property Taxes	\$ 5,920,399.00	\$ -	\$ 5,920,399.00
Sales Taxes	66,617.00	799,774.00	866,391.00
State Funds	5,038,273.00	-	5,038,273.00
Federal Funds	8,351,755.00	-	8,351,755.00
Charges for Services	289,231.00	-	289,231.00
Investment Earnings	24,246.00	43,677.00	67,923.00
Miscellaneous	271,347.00	-	271,347.00
Total Revenues	<u>19,961,868.00</u>	<u>843,451.00</u>	<u>20,805,319.00</u>
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>			
Current			
Instruction	8,617,469.17	-	8,617,469.17
Support Services			
Pupil Services	894,737.00	-	894,737.00
Improvement of Instructional Services	1,079,683.00	-	1,079,683.00
Educational Media Services	147,953.00	-	147,953.00
General Administration	574,183.48	-	574,183.48
School Administration	1,279,984.00	-	1,279,984.00
Business Administration	535,411.00	-	535,411.00
Maintenance and Operation of Plant	2,920,151.65	25,275.00	2,945,426.65
Student Transportation Services	2,160,414.84	97,200.00	2,257,614.84
Central Support Services	384,876.00	-	384,876.00
Other Support Services	212,007.00	-	212,007.00
Food Services Operation	1,250,588.93	-	1,250,588.93
Capital Outlay	237,056.00	745,945.00	983,001.00
Total Expenditures	<u>20,294,515.06</u>	<u>868,420.00</u>	<u>21,162,935.06</u>
Revenues over (under) Expenditures	<u>(332,647.06)</u>	<u>(24,969.00)</u>	<u>(357,616.06)</u>
Net Change in Fund Balances	(332,647.06)	(24,969.00)	(357,616.06)
Fund Balances - Beginning	<u>1,728,221.00</u>	<u>1,572,557.00</u>	<u>3,300,778.00</u>
Fund Balances - Ending	<u>\$ 1,395,573.94</u>	<u>\$ 1,547,588.00</u>	<u>\$ 2,943,161.94</u>

HANCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RECONCILIATION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS STATEMENT OF
REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
JUNE 30, 2024

EXHIBIT "F"

Net change in fund balances total governmental funds (Exhibit "E")	\$	(357,616.06)
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Activities are different because:		
Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the Statement of Activities, the cost of capital assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives as depreciation expense.		
Capital outlay	\$ 1,161,536.00	
Depreciation expense	<u>(670,800.00)</u>	490,736.00
Taxes reported in the Statement of Activities that do not provide current financial resources are not reported as revenues in the funds.		(57,387.00)
Federal revenues reported in the Statement of Activities that do not provide current financial resources are not reported as revenues in the funds.		885,989.00
District pension/OPEB contributions are reported as expenditures in the governmental funds when made. However, they are reported as deferred outflows of resources in the Statement of Net Position because the reported net pension/OPEB liability is measured a year before the District's report date. Pension/OPEB expense, which is the change in the net pension/OPEB liability adjusted for changes in deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to pensions/OPEB, is reported in the Statement of Activities.		
Pension expense	\$ (818,574.00)	
OPEB expense	<u>1,018,577.00</u>	<u>200,003.00</u>
Change in net position of governmental activities (Exhibit "B")	\$	<u><u>1,161,724.94</u></u>

HANCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
FIDUCIARY FUNDS
JUNE 30, 2024

EXHIBIT "G"

CUSTODIAL
FUNDS

ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents

\$ -

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities

\$ -

NET POSITION

Restricted

Individuals, Organizations, and Other Governments

\$ -

HANCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
FIDUCIARY FUNDS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

EXHIBIT "H"

	CUSTODIAL FUNDS
	<u> </u>
<u>ADDITIONS</u>	
Contributions	\$ <u> 52,375.00 </u>
<u>DEDUCTIONS</u>	
Administrative Expenses	\$ <u> 52,375.00 </u>
Change in Net Position	-
Net Position - Beginning	<u> - </u>
Net Position - Ending	\$ <u> - </u>

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HANCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2024

EXHIBIT "I"

NOTE 1: DESCRIPTION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT AND REPORTING ENTITY

Reporting Entity

The Hancock County Board of Education (School District) was established under the laws of the State of Georgia and operates under the guidance of a board elected by the voters and a Superintendent appointed by the Board. The School District is organized as a separate legal entity and has the power to levy taxes and issue bonds. Its budget is not subject to approval by any other entity. Accordingly, the School District is a primary government and consists of all the organizations that compose its legal entity.

NOTE 2: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accompanying financial statements of the School District have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as prescribed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). GASB is the accepted standard-setting body for governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The most significant of the School District's accounting policies are described below.

Basis of Presentation

The School District's basic financial statements are collectively comprised of the government-wide financial statements, fund financial statements and notes to the basic financial statements. The government-wide statements focus on the School District as a whole, while the fund financial statements focus on major funds. Each presentation provides valuable information that can be analyzed and compared between years and between governments to enhance the information's usefulness.

Government-Wide Statements:

The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities display information about the financial activities of the overall School District, except for fiduciary activities. Eliminations have been made to minimize the double counting of internal activities. Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes, intergovernmental revenues, and other nonexchange transactions.

The Statement of Net Position presents the School District's non-fiduciary assets, deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources and liabilities, with the difference reported as net position. Net position is reported in three categories as follows:

1. **Investment in capital assets** consists of the School District's total investment in capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation.
2. **Restricted net position** consists of resources for which the School District is legally or contractually obligated to spend in accordance with restrictions imposed by external third parties or imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.
3. **Unrestricted net position** consists of resources not meeting the definition of the two preceding categories. Unrestricted net position often has constraints on resources imposed by management which can be removed or modified.

The Statement of Activities presents a comparison between direct expenses and program revenues for each function of the School District's governmental activities.

HANCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2024

EXHIBIT "I"

Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with a program or function and, therefore, are clearly identifiable to a particular function. Indirect expenses (expenses of the School District related to the administration and support of the School District's programs, such as office and maintenance personnel and accounting) are not allocated to programs.

Program revenues include (a) charges paid by the recipients of goods or services offered by the programs and (b) 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, including all taxes, are presented as general revenues.

Fund Financial Statements

The fund financial statements provide information about the School District's funds, including fiduciary funds. Eliminations have been made to minimize the double counting of internal activities. Separate financial statements are presented for governmental and fiduciary funds. The emphasis of fund financial statements is on major governmental funds, each displayed in a separate column.

The School District reports the following major governmental funds:

- The general fund is the School District's primary operating fund. It accounts for and reports all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund.
- The capital projects fund accounts for and reports financial resources including Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST) that are restricted, committed or assigned for capital outlay expenditures, including the acquisition or construction of capital facilities and other capital assets.

The School District reports the following fiduciary fund type:

- Custodial funds are used to report resources held by the School District in a purely custodial capacity.

Basis of Accounting

The basis of accounting determines when transactions are reported on the financial statements. The government-wide and fiduciary fund financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded at the time liabilities are incurred, regardless of when the related cash flows take place. Nonexchange transactions, in which the School District gives (or receives) value without directly receiving (or giving) equal value in exchange, include property taxes, sales taxes, grants and donations. On an accrual basis, revenue from property taxes is recognized in the fiscal year for which the taxes are levied. Revenue from sales taxes is recognized in the fiscal year in which the underlying transaction (sale) takes place. Revenue from grants and donations is recognized in the fiscal year in which all eligibility requirements have been satisfied.

The School District uses funds to report on its financial position and the results of its operations. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain governmental functions or activities. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts.

Governmental funds are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under this method, revenues are recognized when measurable and available. The School District considers certain revenues reported in the governmental funds to be

HANCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2024

EXHIBIT "I"

available if they are collected within 60 days after year-end. The School District considers all intergovernmental revenues to be available if they are collected within 120 days after year-end. Property taxes, sales taxes and interest are considered to be susceptible to accrual. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred. Capital asset acquisitions are reported as expenditures in governmental funds.

The School District funds certain programs by a combination of specific cost-reimbursement grants, categorical grants, and general revenues. Thus, when program costs are incurred, there are both restricted and unrestricted resources available to finance the program. It is the School District's policy to first apply grant resources to such programs, followed by cost-reimbursement grants, then general revenues.

New Accounting Pronouncements

In fiscal year 2024, the School District adopted Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 100, *Accounting Changes and Error Corrections*. The objective of this statement is to enhance accounting and financial reporting requirements for accounting changes and error corrections to provide more understandable, reliable, relevant, consistent and comparable information for making decisions or assessing accountability. The adoption of this statement did not have a material impact on the School District's financial statements. This statement will be applied prospectively.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash on hand, demand deposits, investments in the State of Georgia local government investment pool (Georgia Fund 1) and short-term investments with original maturities of three months or less from the date of acquisition in authorized financial institutions. Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A.) §45-8-14 authorizes the School District to deposit its funds in one or more solvent banks, insured Federal savings and loan associations or insured chartered building and loan associations.

Receivables

Receivables consist of amounts due from property and sales taxes, grant reimbursements due on Federal, State or other grants for expenditures made but not reimbursed and other receivables disclosed from information available. Receivables are recorded when either the asset or revenue recognition criteria has been met. Receivables recorded on the basic financial statements do not include any amounts which would necessitate the need for an allowance for uncollectible receivables.

Due to other funds and due from other funds consist of activities between funds that are representative of lending/borrowing arrangements outstanding at the end of the fiscal year.

Inventories

Food Inventories

On the basic financial statements, inventories of donated food commodities used in the preparation of meals are reported at their Federally assigned value and purchased foods inventories are reported at cost (calculated on the first-in, first-out basis). The School District uses the consumption method to account for inventories whereby donated food commodities are recorded as an asset and as revenue when received, and expenses/expenditures are recorded as the inventory items are used. Purchased foods are recorded as an asset when purchased and expenses/expenditures are recorded as the inventory items are used.

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Prepaid Items

Payments made to vendors for services that will benefit future accounting periods are recorded as prepaid items, in both the government-wide and governmental fund financial statements.

Capital Assets

On the government-wide financial statements, capital assets are recorded at cost where historical records are available and at estimated historical cost based on appraisals or deflated current replacement cost where no historical records exist. Donated capital assets are recorded at the acquisition value on the date donated. The cost of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of assets or materially extend the useful lives of the assets is not capitalized. The School District does not capitalize book collections or works of art.

Capital acquisition and construction are recorded as expenditures in the governmental fund financial statements at the time of purchase (including ancillary charges), and the related assets are reported as capital assets in the governmental activities column in the government-wide financial statements.

Depreciation is computed using the straight-line for all assets, except land, and is used to allocate the actual or estimated historical cost of capital assets over estimated useful lives.

Capitalization thresholds and estimated useful lives of capital assets reported in the government-wide statements are as follows:

	Capitalization Policy	Estimated Useful Life
Land	All	N/A
Construction in Progress	\$ 100,000.00	N/A
Land Improvements	\$ 25,000.00	5 to 50 years
Buildings and Improvements	\$ 100,000.00	10 to 50 years
Equipment	\$ 15,000.00	3 to 20 years
Intangible Assets (purchased)	\$ 300,000.00	3 to 20 years
Intangible Assets (leased or subscription-based)	\$ 100,000.00	Lesser of lease/subscription term or useful life of asset.

During the fiscal year, management increased the capital asset threshold to \$100,000.00 from \$5,000.00 for construction in progress, \$25,000.00 from \$5,000.00 for land improvements, \$100,000.00 from \$5,000.00 for buildings and improvements, and \$15,000.00 from \$5,000.00 for equipment. In addition, management decreased the estimated useful life to 10 to 50 years from 15 to 80 years for buildings and improvements. In addition, management established a capitalization threshold of \$100,000.00 for leased or subscription-based intangible assets and set the estimated useful life as the lesser of the lease or subscription term or the useful life of the asset. The changes in threshold and estimated useful lives did not have a material or significant impact on the financial statements.

Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources

In addition to assets, the statement of financial position will report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element represents a consumption of resources that applies to a future period(s) and therefore will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then.

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In addition to liabilities, the statement of financial position will report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element represents an acquisition of resources that applies to a future period(s) and therefore will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time.

Pensions

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 pension plan's fiduciary net position and additions to/deductions from the plan's fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the plan. 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.

Post-Employment Benefits Other than Pensions (OPEB)

For purposes of measuring the net OPEB liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB, and OPEB expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the Georgia School Employees Post-Employment Benefit Fund (School OPEB Fund) and additions to/deductions from School OPEB Fund fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by School OPEB Fund. For this purpose, benefit payments are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value.

Fund Balances

Fund balance for governmental funds is reported in classifications that comprise a hierarchy based primarily on the extent to which the government is bound to honor constraints on the specific purposes for which amounts in those funds can be spent.

The School District's fund balances are classified as follows:

Nonspendable consists of resources that cannot be spent either because they are in a nonspendable form or because they are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.

Restricted consists of resources that can be used only for specific purposes pursuant constraints either (1) externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws and regulations of other governments or (2) imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Committed consists of resources that can be used only for specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by formal action of the Board. The Board is the School District's highest level of decision-making authority, and the formal action that is required to be taken to establish, modify, or rescind a fund balance commitment is a resolution approved by the Board. Committed fund balance also should incorporate contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed for use in satisfying those contractual requirements.

Assigned consists of resources constrained by the School District's intent to be used for specific purposes but are neither restricted nor committed. The intent should be expressed by (1) the Board or (2) the budget or finance committee, or the Superintendent, or designee, to assign amounts to be used for specific purposes.

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Unassigned consists of resources within the general fund not meeting the definition of any aforementioned category. The general fund should be the only fund that reports a positive unassigned fund balance amount. In other governmental funds, it may be necessary to report a negative unassigned fund balance.

Use of Estimates

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

Property Taxes

The Hancock County Board of Commissioners adopted the property tax levy for the 2023 tax digest year (calendar year) on August 31, 2023 (levy date) based on property values as of January 1, 2023. Taxes were due on November 20, 2023 (lien date). Taxes collected within the current fiscal year or within 60 days after year-end on the 2023 tax digest are reported as revenue in the governmental funds for fiscal year 2024. The Hancock County Tax Commissioner bills and collects the property taxes for the School District, withholds 2.5% of taxes collected as a fee for tax collection and remits the balance of taxes collected to the School District. Property tax revenues, at the fund reporting level, during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, for maintenance and operations amounted to \$5,473,442.00.

The tax millage rate levied for the 2023 tax digest year (calendar year) for the School District was as follows (a mill equals \$1 per thousand dollars of assessed value):

School Operations	<u>14.141</u> mills
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Additionally, Title Ad Valorem Tax revenues, at the fund reporting level, amounted to \$446,957.00 during fiscal year ended June 30, 2024.

Sales Taxes

Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST), at the fund reporting level, during the year amounted to \$799,774.00 and is to be used for capital outlay for educational purposes. This sales tax was authorized by local referendum and the sales tax must be re-authorized at least every five years.

NOTE 3: BUDGETARY DATA

The budget is a complete financial plan for the School District's fiscal year and is based upon careful estimates of expenditures together with probable funding sources. The budget is legally adopted each year for the general and capital projects funds. There is no statutory prohibition regarding over expenditure of the budget at any level. The budget for all governmental funds, except the various school activity (principal) accounts, is prepared and adopted by fund, function and object. The legal level of budgetary control was established by the Board at the aggregate fund level. The budget for the general fund was prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

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The budgetary process begins with the School District's administration presenting an initial budget for the Board's review. The administration makes revisions as necessary based on the Board's guidelines, and a tentative budget is approved. After approval of this tentative budget by the Board, such budget is advertised at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the locality, as well as the School District's website. At the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board after advertisement, the Board receives comments on the tentative budget, makes revisions as necessary and adopts a final budget. The approved budget is then submitted, in accordance with provisions of O.C.G.A. §20-2-167(c), to the Georgia Department of Education. The Board may increase or decrease the budget at any time during the year. All unexpended budget authority lapses at fiscal year-end.

If expenditure of funds in any budget function for any fund is anticipated to be more than \$5,000.00, the Superintendent shall request Board approval for the budget amendment. Any position or expenditure not previously approved in the annual budget that exceeds \$5,000.00 shall require Board approval unless the Superintendent deems the position or purchase an emergency. In such case, the expenditure shall be reported to the Board at its regularly scheduled meeting. Under no circumstance is the Superintendent or other staff person authorized to spend funds that exceed the total budget without approval by the Board.

See the General Fund Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget to Actual in the Supplementary Information Section for a detail of any over/under expenditures during the fiscal year under review.

NOTE 4: DEPOSITS AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Collateralization of Deposits

O.C.G.A. §45-8-12 provides that there shall not be on deposit at any time in any depository for a time longer than ten days a sum of money which has not been secured by surety bond, by guarantee of insurance, or by collateral. The aggregate of the face value of such surety bond and the market value of securities pledged shall be equal to not less than 110% of the public funds being secured after the deduction of the amount of deposit insurance. If a depository elects the pooled method (O.C.G.A. §45-8-13.1) the aggregate of the market value of the securities pledged to secure a pool of public funds shall be not less than 110% of the daily pool balance.

Acceptable security for deposits consists of any one of or any combination of the following:

- (1) Surety bond signed by a surety company duly qualified and authorized to transact business within the State of Georgia,
- (2) Insurance on accounts provided by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation,
- (3) Bonds, bills, notes, certificates of indebtedness or other direct obligations of the United States or of the State of Georgia,
- (4) Bonds, bills, notes, certificates of indebtedness or other obligations of the counties or municipalities of the State of Georgia,
- (5) Bonds of any public authority created by the laws of the State of Georgia, providing that the statute that created the authority authorized the use of the bonds for this purpose,
- (6) Industrial revenue bonds and bonds of development authorities created by the laws of the State of Georgia, and

HANCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
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- (7) Bonds, bills, notes, certificates of indebtedness, or other obligations of a subsidiary corporation of the United States government, which are fully guaranteed by the United States government both as to principal and interest or debt obligations issued by or securities guaranteed by the Federal Land Bank, the Federal Home Loan Bank, the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank, the Central Bank for Cooperatives, the Farm Credit Banks, the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Association, and the Federal National Mortgage Association.

Categorization of Deposits

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the School District's deposits may not be returned to it. The School District does not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk. At June 30, 2024, the School District had deposits with a carrying amount of \$1,384,330.00, and a bank balance of \$1,847,742.00. The bank balances insured by Federal depository insurance were \$568,476.00 and the bank balances collateralized with securities held by the by the pledging financial institution's agent in the School District's name were \$486,529.00.

At June 30, 2024, \$792,737.00 of the School District's bank balances were exposed to custodial credit risk. This balance was in the State's Secure Deposit Program (SDP).

The School District participates in the State's Secure Deposit Program (SDP), a multi-bank pledging pool. The SDP requires participating banks that accept public deposits in Georgia to operate under the policy and procedures of the program. The Georgia Office of State Treasurer (OST) sets the collateral requirements and pledging level for each covered depository. There are four tiers of collateralization levels specifying percentages of eligible securities to secure covered deposits: 25%, 50%, 75%, and 110%. The SDP also provides for collateral levels to be increased in the amount of up to 125% if economic or financial conditions warrants. The program lists the types of eligible criteria. The OST approves authorized custodians.

In accordance with the SDP, if a covered depository defaults, losses to public depositors are first satisfied with any applicable insurance, followed by demands of payment under any letters of credit or sale of the covered depository collateral. If necessary, any remaining losses are to be satisfied by assessments made against the other participating covered depositories. Therefore, for disclosure purposes, all deposits of the SDP are considered to be fully collateralized.

Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents balances to carrying value of deposits:

Cash and cash equivalents	
Statement of Net Position	\$ 2,206,204.00
Less:	
Investment pools reported as cash and cash equivalents	
Georgia Fund 1	<u>821,874.00</u>
Total carrying value of deposits - June 30, 2024	<u><u>\$ 1,384,330.00</u></u>

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Categorization of Cash Equivalents

The School District reported cash equivalents of \$821,874.00 in Georgia Fund 1, a local government investment pool, which is included in the cash balances above. Georgia Fund 1 is not registered with the SEC as an investment company and does not operate in a manner consistent with the SEC's Rule 2a-7 of the Investment Company Act of 1940. The investment is valued at the pool's share price, \$1.00 per share, which approximates fair value. The pool is an AA+ rated investment pool by Fitch. The weighted average maturity of Georgia Fund 1 may not exceed 60 days. The weighted average maturity for Georgia Fund 1 on June 30, 2024 was 33 days.

Georgia Fund 1, administered by the State of Georgia, Office of the State Treasurer, is not required to be categorized since the School District did not own any specific identifiable securities in the pool. The investment policy of the State of Georgia, Office of the State Treasurer for the Georgia Fund 1, does not provide for investment in derivatives or similar investments. Additional information on the Georgia Fund 1 is disclosed in the State of Georgia Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, which is publicly available at <https://sao.georgia.gov/statewide-reporting/acfr>.

NOTE 5: CAPITAL ASSETS

The following is a summary of changes in the capital assets for governmental activities the fiscal year:

	Balances July 1, 2023	Increases	Decreases	Balances June 30, 2024
Governmental Activities				
Capital Assets,				
Not Being Depreciated:				
Land	\$ 189,698.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 189,698.00
Capital Assets,				
Being Depreciated:				
Buildings and Improvements	16,201,950.00	-	9,146.00	16,192,804.00
Equipment	4,260,757.00	891,066.00	-	5,151,823.00
Land Improvements	1,684,349.00	270,470.00	-	1,954,819.00
Less Accumulated Depreciation:				
Buildings and Improvements	10,556,039.00	303,204.00	9,146.00	10,850,097.00
Equipment	2,729,653.00	256,931.00	-	2,986,584.00
Land Improvements	349,860.00	110,665.00	-	460,525.00
Total Capital Assets,				
Being Depreciated, Net	8,511,504.00	490,736.00	-	9,002,240.00
Governmental Activities				
Capital Assets - Net	\$ 8,701,202.00	\$ 490,736.00	\$ -	\$ 9,191,938.00

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Current year depreciation expense by function is as follows:

Instruction		\$ 480,527.00
Support Services		
General Administration	\$ 5,777.00	
Maintenance and Operation of Plant	48,128.00	
Student Transportation Services	124,392.00	178,297.00
Food Services		11,976.00
		<u>\$ 670,800.00</u>

NOTE 6: INTERFUND ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Due to and due from other funds are recorded for interfund receivables and payables which arise from interfund transactions. Interfund balances at June 30, 2024, consisted of the following:

	<u>Due From Other Funds</u>	<u>Due To Other Funds</u>
General Fund	\$ -	\$ 433,830.00
Capital Projects Fund	433,830.00	-
Total	<u>\$ 433,830.00</u>	<u>\$ 433,830.00</u>

Interfund balances were incurred to repay the capital projects fund for amounts receipted to the general fund in error in prior years.

NOTE 7: LONG-TERM LIABILITIES

The changes in long-term liabilities during the fiscal year for governmental activities were as follows:

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>		
	<u>Balance July 1, 2023</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Deductions</u>
Net Pension Liability	\$ 15,184,850.00	\$ 2,260,872.00	\$ 4,297,077.00
Net OPEB Liability	7,476,209.00	1,773,447.00	1,050,589.00
	<u>\$ 22,661,059.00</u>	<u>\$ 4,034,319.00</u>	<u>\$ 5,347,666.00</u>
			<u>\$ 21,347,712.00</u>

NOTE 8: RISK MANAGEMENT

Insurance

Commercial Insurance

The School District is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to and destruction of assets; errors or omissions; job related illness or injuries to employees; acts of God and unemployment compensation.

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The School District has obtained commercial insurance for risks of loss associated with torts, assets, errors or omissions, job related illness or injuries to employees and acts of God. The School District has neither significantly reduced coverage for these risks nor incurred losses (settlements) which exceeded the School District's insurance coverage in any of the past three years.

Unemployment Compensation

The School District is self-insured with regard to unemployment compensation claims. The School District accounts for claims within the general fund with expenses/expenditures and liability being reported when it is probable that a loss has occurred, and the amount of that loss can be reasonably estimated.

Changes in the unemployment compensation claims liability during the last two fiscal years are as follows:

	Beginning of Year Liability	Claims and Changes in Estimates	Claims Paid	End of Year Liability
2023	\$ -	\$ 2,019.00	\$ 2,019.00	\$ -
2024	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Surety Bond

The School District purchased surety bonds to provide additional insurance coverage as follows:

Position Covered	Amount
Superintendent	\$ 250,000.00
Finance Director	\$ 100,000.00

NOTE 9: FUND BALANCE CLASSIFICATION DETAILS

The School District's financial statements include the following amounts presented in the aggregate at June 30, 2024:

Nondisposable		
Inventories	\$ 13,959.00	
Prepaid Assets	<u>52,945.00</u>	\$ 66,904.00
Restricted		
Continuation of Federal Programs	\$ 290,619.00	
Capital Projects	<u>1,547,588.00</u>	1,838,207.00
Assigned		
School Activity Accounts		42,299.00
Unassigned		<u>995,751.94</u>
Fund Balance, June 30, 2024		<u>\$ 2,943,161.94</u>

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When multiple categories of fund balance are available for an expenditure, the School District will start with the most restricted category and spend those funds first before moving down to the next category with available funds.

NOTE 10: SIGNIFICANT CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

Federal Grants

Amounts received or receivable principally from the Federal government are subject to audit and review by grantor agencies. This could result in requests for reimbursement to the grantor agency for any costs which are disallowed under grant terms. Any disallowances resulting from the grantor audit may become a liability of the School District. However, the School District believes that such disallowances, if any, will be immaterial to its overall financial position.

Litigation

The School District is a defendant in various legal proceedings pertaining to matters incidental to the performance of routine School District operations. The ultimate disposition of these proceedings is not presently determinable but is not believed to have a material adverse effect on the financial condition of the School District.

NOTE 11: OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB)

Georgia School Personnel Post-Employment Health Benefit Fund

Plan Description: Certified teachers and non-certified public school employees of the School District as defined in §20-2-875 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A.) are provided OPEB through the School OPEB Fund - a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit post-employment healthcare plan, reported as an employee trust fund and administered by a Board of Community Health (Board). Title 20 of the O.C.G.A. assigns the authority to establish and amend the benefit terms of the group health plan to the Board.

Benefits Provided: The School OPEB Fund provides healthcare benefits for retirees and their dependents due under the group health plan for public school teachers, including librarians, other certified employees of public schools, regional educational service agencies and non-certified public school employees. Retiree medical eligibility is attained when an employee retires and is immediately eligible to draw a retirement annuity from Employees' Retirement System (ERS), Georgia Judicial Retirement System (JRS), Legislative Retirement System (LRS), Teachers Retirement System (TRS) or Public School Employees Retirement System (PSERS). If elected, dependent coverage starts on the same day as retiree coverage. Medicare-eligible retirees are offered Standard and Premium Medicare Advantage plan options. Non-Medicare eligible retiree plan options include Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA), Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) and a High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP). The School OPEB Fund also pays for administrative expenses of the fund. By law, no other use of the assets of the School OPEB Fund is permitted.

Contributions: As established by the Board, the School OPEB Fund is substantially funded on a pay-as-you-go basis; that is, annual cost of providing benefits will be financed in the same year as claims occur. Contributions to the School OPEB Fund from the School District were \$296,445.00 for the year ended June 30, 2024. Active employees are not required to contribute to the School OPEB Fund.

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

At June 30, 2024, the School District reported a liability of \$8,199,067.00 for its proportionate share of the net OPEB liability. The net OPEB liability was measured as of June 30, 2023. The total OPEB liability used to calculate the net OPEB liability was based on an actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2022. An expected total OPEB liability as of June 30, 2023 was determined using standard roll-forward techniques. The School District's proportion of the net OPEB liability was actuarially determined based on employer contributions during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. At June 30, 2023, the School District's proportion was 0.074854%, which was a decrease of 0.000639% from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2022.

For the year ended June 30, 2024, the School District recognized OPEB expense of (\$722,132.00). At June 30, 2024, the School District reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

	OPEB	
	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 238,989.00	\$ 2,354,868.00
Changes of assumptions	1,489,609.00	1,023,939.00
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on OPEB plan investments	4,919.00	-
Changes in proportion and differences between School District contributions and proportionate share of contributions	301,476.00	2,065,860.00
School District contributions subsequent to the measurement date	296,445.00	-
Total	\$ 2,331,438.00	\$ 5,444,667.00

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School District contributions subsequent to the measurement date are reported as deferred outflows of resources and will be recognized as a reduction of the 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 OPEB expense as follows:

Year Ended June 30:	<u>OPEB</u>
2025	\$ (1,123,611.00)
2026	\$ (920,955.00)
2027	\$ (826,915.00)
2028	\$ (531,712.00)
2029	\$ (17,719.00)
Thereafter	\$ 11,238.00

Actuarial Assumptions: The total OPEB liability as of June 30, 2023 was determined by an actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2022 using the following actuarial assumptions and other inputs, applied to all periods included in the measurement and rolled forward to the measurement date of June 30, 2023:

OPEB:

Inflation	2.50%
Salary increases	3.00% – 8.75%, including inflation
Long-term expected rate of return	7.00%, compounded annually, net of investment expense, and including inflation
Healthcare cost trend rate	7.00%
Ultimate trend rate	4.50%
Year of Ultimate trend rate	2032

The Plan currently uses mortality tables that vary by age, gender, and health status (i.e. disabled or not disabled) as follows:

- For TRS members: Post-retirement mortality rates for service retirements and beneficiaries were based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Headcount Weighted Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table (ages set forward one year and adjusted 106%) with the MP-2019 Projection scale applied generationally. The rates of improvement were reduced by 20% for all years prior to the ultimate rate. Post-retirement mortality rates for disability retirements were based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Mortality Table for Disabled Retirees (ages set forward one year and adjusted 106%) with the MP-2019 Projection scale applied generationally. The rates of improvement were reduced by 20% for all years prior to the ultimate rate. The Pub-2010 Teachers Headcount Weighted Below Median Employee mortality table with ages set forward one year and adjusted 106% was used for death prior to retirement. Future improvement in mortality rates was assumed using the MP-2019 Projection scale generationally. These rates of improvement were reduced by 20% for all years prior to the ultimate rate.

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- For PSERS members: Pre-retirement mortality rates were based on the Pub-2010 General Employee Mortality Table, with no adjustment, with the MP-2019 Projection scale applied generationally. Post-retirement mortality rates for service retirements were based on the Pub-2010 General Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table (ages set forward one year and adjusted 101% for males and 103% for females) with the MP-2019 Projection scale applied generationally. Post-retirement mortality rates for disability retirements were based on the Pub-2010 General Disabled Mortality Table (ages set back three years for males and adjusted 103% for males and 106% for females) with the MP-2019 Projection scaled applied generationally. Post-retirement mortality rates for beneficiaries were based on the Pub-2010 General Contingent Survivor Mortality Table (ages set forward two years and adjusted 104% for males and 99% for females) with the MP-2019 Projection scale applied generationally.

The actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2022 valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the pension systems, which covered the five-year period ending June 30, 2018, with the exception of the assumed annual rate of inflation which was changed from 2.75% to 2.50%, effective with the June 30, 2018 valuation.

The remaining actuarial assumptions (e.g., initial per capita costs, health care cost trends, rate of plan participation, rates of plan election, etc.) used in the June 30, 2022 valuation were based on a review of recent plan experience done concurrently with the June 30, 2022 valuation.

Projection of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the employer and plan members) and include the types of benefits provided at the time of each valuation and the historical pattern of sharing of benefit costs between the employer and plan members to that point. The actuarial methods and assumptions used include techniques that are designed to reduce the effects of short-term volatility in actuarial accrued liabilities and the actuarial value of assets, consistent with the long-term perspective of the calculation.

The long-term expected rate of return on OPEB plan investments was determined using a log-normal distribution analysis in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected nominal returns, net of investment expense and the assumed rate of 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 are summarized in the following table:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return*
Fixed income	30.00%	1.50%
Equities	70.00%	9.40%
Total	100.00%	

* Net of inflation

HANCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
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EXHIBIT "I"

Discount Rate: In order to measure the total OPEB liability for the School OPEB Fund, a single equivalent interest rate of 3.68% was used as the discount rate, as compared with last year's rate of 3.57%. The plan's fiduciary net position was projected to not be able to make all future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the municipal bond rate as used for the long-term rate of return was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine total OPEB liability. This is comprised mainly of the yield or index rate for 20 year tax-exempt general obligation bonds with an average rating of AA or higher (3.65% per the Municipal Bond Index Rate). The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from members and from the employers will be made at the current level as averaged over the last five years, adjusted for annual projected changes in headcount. Projected future benefit payments for all current plan members were projected through 2128.

Sensitivity of the School District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate: The following presents the School District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability calculated using the discount rate of 3.68%, as well as what the School District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (2.68%) or 1-percentage-point higher (4.68%) than the current discount rate:

	1% Decrease (2.68%)	Current Discount Rate (3.68%)	1% Increase (4.68%)
School District's proportionate share of the Net OPEB liability	\$ 9,294,021.00	\$ 8,199,067.00	\$ 7,276,885.00

Sensitivity of the School District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Healthcare Cost Trend Rates: The following presents the School District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability, as well as what the School District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using healthcare cost trend rates that are 1-percentage-point lower or 1-percentage-point higher than the current healthcare cost trend rates:

	1% Decrease	Current Healthcare Cost Trend Rate	1% Increase
School District's proportionate share of the Net OPEB liability	\$ 7,062,409.00	\$ 8,199,067.00	\$ 9,600,321.00

OPEB Plan Fiduciary Net Position: Detailed information about the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position is available in the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, which is publicly available at <https://sao.georgia.gov/statewide-reporting/acfr>.

NOTE 12: RETIREMENT PLANS

The School District participates in various retirement plans administered by the State of Georgia, as further explained below.

Teachers Retirement System of Georgia (TRS)

Plan Description: All teachers of the School District as defined in O.C.G.A. §47-3-60 and certain other support personnel as defined by O.C.G.A. §47-3-63 are provided a pension through the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia (TRS). TRS, a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan, is administered by the TRS Board of Trustees (TRS Board). Title 47 of the O.C.G.A. assigns the

HANCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
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EXHIBIT "I"

authority to establish and amend the benefit provisions to the State Legislature. The Teachers Retirement System of Georgia issues a publicly available separate financial report that can be obtained at www.trsga.com/publications.

Benefits Provided: TRS provides service retirement, disability retirement, and death benefits. Normal retirement benefits are determined as 2% of the average of the employee's two highest paid consecutive years of service, multiplied by the number of years of creditable service up to 40 years. An employee is eligible for normal service retirement after 30 years of creditable service, regardless of age, or after 10 years of service and attainment of age 60. Ten years of service is required for disability and death benefits eligibility. Disability benefits are based on the employee's creditable service and compensation up to the time of disability. Death benefits equal the amount that would be payable to the employee's beneficiary had the employee retired on the date of death. Death benefits are based on the employee's creditable service and compensation up to the date of death.

Contributions: Per Title 47 of the O.C.G.A., contribution requirements of active employees and participating employers, as actuarially determined, are established and may be amended by the TRS Board. Contributions are expected to finance the costs of benefits earned by employees during the year, with an additional amount to finance any unfunded accrued liability. Employees were required to contribute 6.00% of their annual pay during fiscal year 2024. The School District's contractually required contribution rate for the year ended June 30, 2024 was 19.98% of annual School District payroll. For the current fiscal year, employer contributions to the pension plan were \$1,380,278.00 from the School District.

Public School Employees Retirement System (PSERS)

Plan Description: PSERS is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan established by the Georgia General Assembly in 1969 for the purpose of providing retirement allowances for public school employees who are not eligible for membership in the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia. The ERS Board of Trustees, plus two additional trustees, administers PSERS. Title 47 of the O.C.G.A. assigns the authority to establish and amend the benefit provisions to the State Legislature. PSERS issues a publicly available financial report that can be obtained at www.ers.ga.gov/financials.

Benefits Provided: A member may retire and elect to receive normal monthly retirement benefits after completion of ten years of creditable service and attainment of age 65. A member may choose to receive reduced benefits after age 60 and upon completion of ten years of service.

Upon retirement, the member will receive a monthly benefit of \$16.00, multiplied by the number of years of creditable service. Death and disability benefits are also available through PSERS. Additionally, PSERS may make periodic cost-of-living adjustments to the monthly benefits. Upon termination of employment, member contributions with accumulated interest are refundable upon request by the member. However, if an otherwise vested member terminates and withdraws his/her member contribution, the member forfeits all rights to retirement benefits.

Contributions: The general assembly makes an annual appropriation to cover the employer contribution to PSERS on behalf of local school employees (bus drivers, cafeteria workers, and maintenance staff). The annual employer contribution required by statute is actuarially determined and paid directly to PSERS by the State Treasurer in accordance with O.C.G.A. §47-4-29(a) and 60(b). Contributions are expected to finance the costs of benefits earned by employees during the year, with an additional amount to finance any unfunded accrued liability.

HANCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
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Individuals who became members prior to July 1, 2012 contribute \$4 per month for nine months each fiscal year. Individuals who became members on or after July 1, 2012 contribute \$10 per month for nine months each fiscal year. The State of Georgia, although not the employer of PSERS members, is required by statute to make employer contributions actuarially determined and approved and certified by the PSERS Board of Trustees. The current fiscal year contribution was \$37,970.00.

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

At June 30, 2024, the School District reported a liability of \$13,148,645.00 for its proportionate share of the net pension liability for TRS.

The net pension liability for TRS was measured as of June 30, 2023. The total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was based on an actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2022. An expected total pension liability as of June 30, 2023 was determined using standard roll-forward techniques. The School District's proportion of the net pension liability was based on contributions to TRS during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023.

At June 30, 2023, the School District's TRS proportion was 0.044535%, which was a decrease of 0.002228% from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2022.

At June 30, 2024, the School District did not have a PSERS liability for a proportionate share of the net pension liability because of a Special Funding Situation with the State of Georgia, which is responsible for the net pension liability of the plan. The amount of the State's proportionate share of the net pension liability associated with the School District is \$255,570.00.

The PSERS net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2023. The total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was based on an actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2022. An expected total pension liability as of June 30, 2023 was determined using standard roll-forward techniques. The State's proportion of the net pension liability associated with the School District was based on actuarially determined contributions paid by the State during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023.

For the year ended June 30, 2024, the School District recognized pension expense of \$2,198,852.00 for TRS and \$46,127.00 for PSERS and revenue of \$46,127.00 for PSERS. The revenue is support provided by the State of Georgia.

**HANCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2024**

EXHIBIT "I"

At June 30, 2024, the School District reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	TRS	
	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 667,671.00	\$ 54,365.00
Changes of assumptions	1,352,713.00	-
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	924,780.00	-
Changes in proportion and differences between School District contributions and proportionate share of contributions	-	747,636.00
School District contributions subsequent to the measurement date	<u>1,380,278.00</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>\$ 4,325,442.00</u>	<u>\$ 802,001.00</u>

The School District contributions subsequent to the measurement date for TRS are reported as deferred outflows of resources and 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 of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Year Ended June 30:	TRS
2025	\$ 534,194.00
2026	\$ 349,224.00
2027	\$ 1,632,755.00
2028	\$ (373,010.00)

HANCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2024

EXHIBIT "I"

Actuarial Assumptions: The total pension liability as of June 30, 2023 was determined by an actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2022, using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Teachers Retirement System:

Inflation	2.50%
Salary increases	3.00% – 8.75%, average, including inflation
Investment rate of return	6.90%, net of pension plan investment expense, including inflation
Post-retirement benefit increases	1.50% semi-annually

Post-retirement mortality rates for service retirements and beneficiaries were based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Headcount Weighted Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table (ages set forward one year and adjusted 106%) with the MP-2019 Projection scale applied generationally. The rates of improvement were reduced by 20% for all years prior to the ultimate rate. Post-retirement mortality rates for disability retirements were based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Mortality Table for Disabled Retirees (ages set forward one year and adjusted 106%) with the MP-2019 Projection scale applied generationally. The rates of improvement were reduced by 20% for all years prior to the ultimate rate. The Pub-2010 Teachers Headcount Weighted Below Median Employee mortality table with ages set forward one year and adjusted 106% as used for death prior to retirement. Future improvement in mortality rates was assumed using the MP-2019 Projection scale generationally. These rates of improvement were reduced by 20% for all years prior to the ultimate rate.

The actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2022 valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2018.

Public School Employees Retirement System:

Inflation	2.50%
Salary increases	N/A
Investment rate of return	7.00%, net of pension plan investment expense, including inflation
Post-retirement benefit increases	1.50% semi-annually

HANCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2024

EXHIBIT "I"

Mortality rates are as follows:

- The Pub-2010 General Employee Table, with no adjustments, projected generationally with the MP-2019 scale is used for both males and females while in active service.
- The Pub-2010 Family of Tables projected generationally with the MP-2019 Scale and with further adjustments are used for post-retirement mortality assumptions as follows:

<u>Participant Type</u>	<u>Membership Table</u>	<u>Set Forward (+)/ Setback (-)</u>	<u>Adjustment to Rates</u>
Service Retirees	General Healthy Below-Median Annuitant	Male: +2; Female: +2	Male: 101%; Female: 103%
Disability Retirees	General Disabled	Male: -3; Female: 0	Male: 103%; Female: 106%
Beneficiaries	General Below-Median Contingent Survivors	Male: +2; Female: +2	Male: 104%; Female: 99%

The actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2022 valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2019.

The long-term expected rate of return on TRS and PSERS 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. The target allocation and estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class are summarized in the following table:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>TRS/PSERS Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return*</u>
Fixed income	30.00%	0.90%
Domestic large stocks	46.30%	9.40%
Domestic small stocks	1.20%	13.40%
International developed market stocks	12.30%	9.40%
International emerging market stocks	5.20%	11.40%
Alternative	5.00%	10.50%
Total	100.00%	

* Rates shown are net of inflation

HANCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2024

EXHIBIT "I"

Discount Rate: The discount rate used to measure the total TRS pension liability was 6.90%. The discount rate used to measure the total PSERS pension liability was 7.00%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that plan member contributions will be made at the current contribution rate and that employer and nonemployer contributions will be made at rates equal to the difference between actuarially determined contribution rates and the member rate. Based on those assumptions, the TRS and PSERS pension plans' fiduciary net position were 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.

Sensitivity of the School District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate: The following presents the School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 6.90% as well as what the School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (5.90%) or 1-percentage-point higher (7.90%) than the current rate:

Teachers Retirement System:	1% Decrease (5.90%)	Current Discount Rate (6.90%)	1% Increase (7.90%)
School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 20,789,537.00	\$ 13,148,645.00	\$ 6,908,828.00

Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position: Detailed information about the pension plan's fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued TRS and PSERS financial report which is publicly available at www.trsga.com/publications and www.ers.ga.gov/financials.

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HANCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
SCHEDULE OF PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY
TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF GEORGIA

SCHEDULE "1"

For the Year Ended June 30	School District's proportion of the Net Pension Liability (NPL)	School District's proportionate share of the NPL	State of Georgia's proportionate share of the NPL associated with the School District	Total	School District's covered payroll	School District's proportionate share of the NPL as a percentage of its covered payroll	Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability
2024	0.044535%	\$ 13,148,645.00	\$ -	\$ 13,148,645.00	\$ 6,488,553.00	202.64%	76.29%
2023	0.046763%	\$ 15,184,850.00	\$ -	\$ 15,184,850.00	\$ 6,309,965.00	240.65%	72.85%
2022	0.049381%	\$ 4,367,420.00	\$ -	\$ 4,367,420.00	\$ 6,433,190.00	67.89%	92.03%
2021	0.049663%	\$ 12,030,322.00	\$ -	\$ 12,030,322.00	\$ 6,394,484.00	188.14%	77.01%
2020	0.053760%	\$ 11,559,854.00	\$ -	\$ 11,559,854.00	\$ 6,575,173.00	175.81%	78.56%
2019	0.055375%	\$ 10,278,786.00	\$ -	\$ 10,278,786.00	\$ 6,600,880.00	155.72%	80.27%
2018	0.056396%	\$ 10,481,370.00	\$ -	\$ 10,481,370.00	\$ 6,486,342.00	161.59%	79.33%
2017	0.056501%	\$ 11,656,786.00	\$ -	\$ 11,656,786.00	\$ 6,204,324.00	187.88%	76.06%
2016	0.060825%	\$ 9,260,002.00	\$ -	\$ 9,260,002.00	\$ 6,418,380.00	144.27%	81.44%
2015	0.064599%	\$ 8,161,232.00	\$ -	\$ 8,161,232.00	\$ 6,590,342.00	123.84%	84.03%

HANCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS
TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF GEORGIA

SCHEDULE "2"

For the Year Ended June 30	Contractually required contribution	Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	Contribution deficiency (excess)	School District's covered payroll	Contribution as a percentage of covered payroll
2024	\$ 1,380,278.00	\$ 1,380,278.00	\$ -	\$ 6,908,297.00	19.98%
2023	\$ 1,296,413.00	\$ 1,296,413.00	\$ -	\$ 6,488,553.00	19.98%
2022	\$ 1,250,004.00	\$ 1,250,004.00	\$ -	\$ 6,309,965.00	19.81%
2021	\$ 1,226,166.00	\$ 1,226,166.00	\$ -	\$ 6,433,190.00	19.06%
2020	\$ 1,351,794.00	\$ 1,351,794.00	\$ -	\$ 6,394,484.00	21.14%
2019	\$ 1,373,741.00	\$ 1,373,741.00	\$ -	\$ 6,575,173.00	20.89%
2018	\$ 1,109,608.00	\$ 1,109,608.00	\$ -	\$ 6,600,880.00	16.81%
2017	\$ 925,601.00	\$ 925,601.00	\$ -	\$ 6,486,342.00	14.27%
2016	\$ 885,357.00	\$ 885,357.00	\$ -	\$ 6,204,324.00	14.27%
2015	\$ 844,017.00	\$ 844,017.00	\$ -	\$ 6,418,380.00	13.15%

HANCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
SCHEDULE OF PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY
PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF GEORGIA

SCHEDULE "3"

For the Year Ended June 30	School District's proportion of the Net Pension Liability (NPL)	School District's proportionate share of the NPL	State of Georgia's proportionate share of the NPL associated with the School District	Total	School District's covered payroll	School District's proportionate share of the NPL as a percentage of its covered payroll	Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability
2024	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 255,570.00	\$ 255,570.00	\$ 774,727.00	N/A	85.67%
2023	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 290,860.00	\$ 290,860.00	\$ 701,824.00	N/A	81.21%
2022	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 31,929.00	\$ 31,929.00	\$ 733,494.00	N/A	98.00%
2021	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 208,300.00	\$ 208,300.00	\$ 601,882.00	N/A	84.45%
2020	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 181,336.00	\$ 181,336.00	\$ 513,191.00	N/A	85.02%
2019	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 203,450.00	\$ 203,450.00	\$ 578,942.00	N/A	85.26%
2018	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 200,130.00	\$ 200,130.00	\$ 601,630.00	N/A	85.69%
2017	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 275,751.00	\$ 275,751.00	\$ 637,023.00	N/A	81.00%
2016	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 187,254.00	\$ 187,254.00	\$ 667,351.00	N/A	87.00%
2015	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 170,734.00	\$ 170,734.00	\$ 695,089.00	N/A	88.29%

HANCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
SCHEDULE OF PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE NET OPEB LIABILITY
SCHOOL OPEB FUND

SCHEDULE "4"

For the Year Ended June 30	School District's proportion of the Net OPEB Liability (NOL)	School District's proportionate share of the NOL	State of Georgia's proportionate share of the NOL associated with the School District	Total	School District's covered-employee payroll	School District's proportionate share of the NOL as a percentage of its covered- employee payroll	Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability
2024	0.074854%	\$ 8,199,067.00	\$ -	\$ 8,199,067.00	\$ 7,280,662.00	112.61%	6.05%
2023	0.075493%	\$ 7,476,209.00	\$ -	\$ 7,476,209.00	\$ 7,124,630.00	104.93%	6.17%
2022	0.089198%	\$ 9,660,881.00	\$ -	\$ 9,660,881.00	\$ 6,861,929.00	140.79%	6.14%
2021	0.085943%	\$ 12,623,025.00	\$ -	\$ 12,623,025.00	\$ 6,611,898.00	190.91%	3.99%
2020	0.092712%	\$ 11,377,751.00	\$ -	\$ 11,377,751.00	\$ 6,387,706.00	178.12%	4.63%
2019	0.100230%	\$ 12,738,926.00	\$ -	\$ 12,738,926.00	\$ 6,374,147.00	199.85%	2.93%
2018	0.096562%	\$ 13,566,922.00	\$ -	\$ 13,566,922.00	\$ 6,459,307.00	210.04%	1.61%

HANCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS
SCHOOL OPEB FUND

SCHEDULE "5"

For the Year Ended June 30	Contractually required contribution	Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	Contribution deficiency (excess)	School District's covered-employee payroll	Contribution as a percentage of covered-employee payroll
2024	\$ 296,445.00	\$ 296,445.00	\$ -	\$ 7,822,037.00	3.79%
2023	\$ 287,773.00	\$ 287,773.00	\$ -	\$ 7,280,662.00	3.95%
2022	\$ 272,964.00	\$ 272,964.00	\$ -	\$ 7,124,630.00	3.83%
2021	\$ 331,801.00	\$ 331,801.00	\$ -	\$ 6,861,929.00	4.84%
2020	\$ 290,639.00	\$ 290,639.00	\$ -	\$ 6,611,898.00	4.40%
2019	\$ 499,315.00	\$ 499,315.00	\$ -	\$ 6,387,706.00	7.82%
2018	\$ 519,482.00	\$ 519,482.00	\$ -	\$ 6,374,147.00	8.15%
2017	\$ 503,484.00	\$ 503,484.00	\$ -	\$ 6,459,307.00	7.79%

HANCOCK BOARD OF EDUCATION
NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

Teachers Retirement System

Change of benefit terms: There have been no changes in benefit terms.

Changes of assumptions: On November 18, 2015, the Board adopted recommended changes to the economic and demographic assumptions utilized by the System. Primary among the changes were the updates to rates of mortality, retirement, disability, withdrawal and salary increases. The expectation of retired life mortality was changed to RP-2000 White Collar Mortality Table with future mortality improvement projected to 2025 with the Society of Actuaries' projection scale BB (set forward one year for males).

On May 15, 2019, the Board adopted recommended changes from the smoothed valuation interest rate methodology that has been in effect since June 30, 2009, to a constant interest rate method. In conjunction with the methodology, the long-term assumed rate of return in assets (discount rate) has been changed from 7.50% to 7.25%, and the assumed annual rate of inflation has been reduced from 2.75% to 2.50%.

In 2019 and later, the expectation of retired life mortality was changed to the Pub-2010 Teacher Headcount Weighted Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table from the RP-2000 Mortality Tables. In 2019, rates of withdrawal, retirement, disability and mortality were adjusted to more closely reflect actual experience.

On May 11, 2022, the Board adopted recommended changes to the long-term assumed rate of return and payroll growth assumption utilized by the System. The long-term assumed rate of return was changed from 7.25% to 6.90%, and the payroll growth assumption was changed from 3.00% to 2.50%.

Public School Employees Retirement System

Changes of benefit terms: There have been no changes in benefit terms.

Changes of assumptions: On December 17, 2015, the Board adopted recommended changes to the economic and demographic assumptions utilized by the System. Primary among the changes were the updates to rates of mortality, retirement and withdrawal. The expectation of retired life mortality was changed to the RP-2000 Blue Collar Mortality Table projected to 2025 with projection scale BB (set forward 3 years for males and 2 years for females).

A new funding policy was initially adopted by the Board on March 15, 2018, and most recently amended on December 17, 2020. Because of this new funding policy, the assumed investment rate of return was reduced from 7.50% to 7.40% for the June 30, 2017 actuarial valuation and further reduced from 7.40% to 7.30% for the June 30, 2018 actuarial valuation.

On December 17, 2020, the Board adopted recommended changes to the economic and demographic assumptions utilized by the System based on the experience study prepared for the five-year period ending June 30, 2019. Primary among the changes were the updates to rates or mortality, retirement, disability, and withdrawal. This also included a change to the long-term assumed investment rate of return to 7.00%. These assumption changes are reflected in the calculation of the June 30, 2021 Total Pension Liability.

School OPEB Fund

Changes of benefit terms: There have been no changes in benefit terms.

Changes in assumptions: June 30, 2022 valuation: The tobacco use assumption and aging factors were revised.

June 30, 2020 valuation: Decremental assumptions were changed to reflect the Employees' Retirement System's experience study. Approximately 0.10% of employees are members of the Employees' Retirement System.

June 30, 2019 valuation: Decremental assumptions were changed to reflect the Teachers Retirement System's experience study.

June 30, 2018 valuation: The inflation assumption was lowered from 2.75% to 2.50%.

June 30, 2017 valuation: The participation assumption, tobacco use assumption and morbidity factors were revised.

June 30, 2015 valuation: Decremental and underlying inflation assumptions were changed to reflect the Retirement Systems' experience studies.

June 30, 2012 valuation: A data audit was performed and data collection procedures and assumptions were changed.

The discount rate was updated from 3.07% as of June 30, 2016 to 3.58% as of June 30, 2017, to 3.87% as of June 30, 2018, back to 3.58% as of June 30, 2019, to 2.22% as of June 30, 2020, to 2.20% as of June 30, 2021, to 3.57% as of June 30, 2022, and to 3.68% as of June 30, 2023.

HANCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

SCHEDULE "7"

GENERAL FUND

SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES

BUDGET AND ACTUAL

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	NONAPPROPRIATED BUDGETS		ACTUAL	VARIANCE
	ORIGINAL (1)	FINAL (1)	AMOUNTS	OVER/UNDER
REVENUES				
Property Taxes	\$ 5,450,000.00	\$ 5,450,000.00	\$ 5,920,399.00	\$ 470,399.00
Sales Taxes	145,000.00	145,000.00	66,617.00	(78,383.00)
State Funds	4,160,706.00	4,160,706.00	5,038,273.00	877,567.00
Federal Funds	5,732,040.00	5,732,040.00	8,351,755.00	2,619,715.00
Charges for Services	-	-	289,231.00	289,231.00
Investment Earnings	2,000.00	2,000.00	24,246.00	22,246.00
Miscellaneous	210,000.00	210,000.00	271,347.00	61,347.00
Total Revenues	15,699,746.00	15,699,746.00	19,961,868.00	4,262,122.00
EXPENDITURES				
Current				
Instruction	7,390,675.00	7,390,675.00	8,617,469.17	(1,226,794.17)
Support Services				
Pupil Services	620,176.00	620,176.00	894,737.00	(274,561.00)
Improvement of Instructional Services	1,789,669.00	1,789,669.00	1,079,683.00	709,986.00
Educational Media Services	210,636.00	210,636.00	147,953.00	62,683.00
General Administration	464,782.00	464,782.00	574,183.48	(109,401.48)
School Administration	1,143,465.00	1,143,465.00	1,279,984.00	(136,519.00)
Business Administration	482,242.00	482,242.00	535,411.00	(53,169.00)
Maintenance and Operation of Plant	3,106,410.00	3,106,410.00	2,920,151.65	186,258.35
Student Transportation Services	1,062,690.00	1,062,690.00	2,160,414.84	(1,097,724.84)
Central Support Services	422,173.00	422,173.00	384,876.00	37,297.00
Other Support Services	83,753.00	83,753.00	212,007.00	(128,254.00)
Food Services Operation	54,883.00	54,883.00	1,250,588.93	(1,195,705.93)
Capital Outlay	-	-	237,056.00	(237,056.00)
Total Expenditures	16,831,554.00	16,831,554.00	20,294,515.06	(3,462,961.06)
Net Change in Fund Balances	(1,131,808.00)	(1,131,808.00)	(332,647.06)	799,160.94
Fund Balances - Beginning	1,728,221.00	1,728,221.00	1,728,221.00	-
Fund Balances - Ending	\$ 596,413.00	\$ 596,413.00	\$ 1,395,573.94	\$ 799,160.94

Notes to the Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances Budget and Actual

(1) Original and Final Budget amounts do not include the budgeted revenues or expenditures of the various principal accounts.

The actual revenues and expenditures of the various principal accounts are \$238,214.00 and \$244,076.00, respectively.

The accompanying schedule of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balances budget and actual is presented on the modified accrual basis of accounting which is the basis of accounting used in the presentation of the fund financial statements.

HANCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

SCHEDULE "8"

FUNDING AGENCY PROGRAM/GRANT	ASSISTANCE LISTING NUMBER	PASS- THROUGH ENTITY ID NUMBER	EXPENDITURES IN PERIOD
Agriculture, U.S. Department of			
Child Nutrition Cluster			
Pass-Through From Georgia Department of Education			
Food Services			
School Breakfast Program	10.553	245GA324N1199	\$ 324,059.00
National School Lunch Program	10.555	245GA324N1199	692,724.00
COVID-19 - Emergency Funds Grant	10.555	225GA324N1099	22,464.00
Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program	10.582	245GA324N1199	11,275.00
Total Child Nutrition Cluster			<u>1,050,522.00</u>
Other Programs			
Pass-Through From Georgia Department of Education			
Food Services			
State Administrative Expenses for Child Nutrition	10.560	245GA904N2533	3,631.00
Total U.S. Department of Agriculture			<u>1,054,153.00</u>
Education, U.S. Department of			
Education Stabilization Fund			
Pass-Through From Georgia Department of Education			
COVID-19 - Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund	84.425D	S425D210012	1,416,056.00
COVID-19 - American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School			
Emergency Relief Fund	84.425U	S425U210012	2,535,606.00
Total Education Stabilization Fund			<u>3,951,662.00</u>
Special Education Cluster			
Pass-Through From Georgia Department of Education			
Special Education			
Grants to States	84.027A	H027A220073	66,000.00
Grants to States	84.027A	H027A230073	283,082.00
Preschool Grants	84.173A	H173A230081	6,568.00
Total Special Education Cluster			<u>355,650.00</u>
Other Programs			
Pass-Through From Georgia Department of Education			
Career and Technical Education - Basic Grants to States	84.048A	V048A220010	1,177.00
Career and Technical Education - Basic Grants to States	84.048A	V048A230010	16,760.00
Rural and Low-Income School Program	84.358B	S358F220010	20,600.00
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program	84.424A	S424A230011	57,464.00
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants	84.367A	S367A220001	40,734.00
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010A	S010A220010	43,112.00
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010A	S010A230010	951,716.00
Total Other Programs			<u>1,131,563.00</u>
Total U.S. Department of Education			<u>5,438,875.00</u>
Federal Communications Commission, U.S.			
Direct			
COVID-19 - Emergency Connectivity Fund Program	32.009		<u>245,539.00</u>
Health and Human Services, U.S. Department of			
Head Start Cluster			
Direct			
Head Start	93.600		<u>2,515,938.65</u>
Total Expenditures of Federal Awards			<u>\$ 9,254,505.65</u>

HANCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

SCHEDULE "8"

Notes to the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards

Note 1. Basis of Presentation

The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards (the "Schedule") includes the federal award activity of the Hancock County Board of Education (the "Board") under programs of the federal government for the year ended June 30, 2024. The information in this Schedule is presented in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Because the Schedule presents only a selected portion of the operations of the Board, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position or changes in net position of the Board.

Note 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Expenditures reported on the Schedule are reported on the modified accrual basis of accounting. 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.

Note 3. Indirect Cost Rate

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

Note 4. Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund Activity

For the year ended June 30, 2024, the amount reflected on the Schedule for the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ALN 84.425U) includes \$24,000.00 of approved eligible expenditures that were incurred in a prior fiscal year.

HANCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHEDULE OF STATE REVENUE
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

SCHEDULE "9"

<u>AGENCY/FUNDING</u>	GOVERNMENTAL	
	FUND TYPE	
	GENERAL	FUND
<u>GRANTS</u>		
Bright From the Start:		
Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning		
Pre-Kindergarten Program	\$	289,673.00
Education, Georgia Department of		
Quality Basic Education		
Direct Instructional Cost		
Kindergarten Program		203,219.00
Kindergarten Program - Early Intervention Program		8,292.00
Primary Grades (1-3) Program		480,214.00
Primary Grades - Early Intervention (1-3) Program		14,843.00
Upper Elementary Grades (4-5) Program		228,456.00
Upper Elementary Grades - Early Intervention (4-5) Program		63,139.00
Middle School (6-8) Program		499,687.00
High School General Education (9-12) Program		413,315.00
Vocational Laboratory (9-12) Program		210,892.00
Students with Disabilities		389,489.00
Remedial Education Program		1,087.00
Alternative Education Program		40,515.00
Media Center Program		70,095.00
20 Days Additional Instruction		24,438.00
Staff and Professional Development		10,309.00
Principal Staff and Professional Development		726.00
Indirect Cost		
Central Administration		298,961.00
School Administration		305,841.00
Facility Maintenance and Operations		122,383.00
Mid-Term Adjustment Hold-Harmless		85,471.00
Categorical Grants		
Pupil Transportation		
Regular		248,279.00
Nursing Services		45,000.00
Sparsity		272,274.00
Other State Programs		
Bus Purchases - State Allotment		440,550.00
Bus Safety Incentive Grant		86,750.00
Dyslexia Services Grant		1,236.00
Food Services		23,982.00
Hygiene Products		488.00
One Time QBE Adjustment		90,189.00
Preschool Disability Services		23,291.00
Vocational Supervisors		7,219.00
Office of the State Treasurer		
Public School Employees Retirement		37,970.00
	\$	<u>5,038,273.00</u>

HANCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHEDULE OF APPROVED LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX PROJECTS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

SCHEDULE "10"

PROJECT	ORIGINAL ESTIMATED COST (1)	CURRENT ESTIMATED COSTS (2)	ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE
SPLOST 2021			
<p>Adding to, renovating, modifying, improving, demolishing, furnishing and equipping existing school buildings and other buildings and facilities useful and desirable in connection therewith, including, but not limited to, HVAC, restrooms, additional classrooms, administrative facilities, gymnasiums and physical education/athletic facilities; (ii) acquiring technology improvements, including safety and security improvements and computer technology; (iii) acquiring new school equipment, including new buses, maintenance vehicles and maintenance equipment; (iv) acquiring textbooks and other instructional materials and band instruments; (v) clearing and grading of real property; (vi) destruction of existing buildings and facilities; (vii) acquiring any necessary or desirable property, both real and personal, including textbooks and band instruments, the maximum amount of the projects to be paid with sales and use tax proceeds with be \$3,500,000; and (viii) payment of expenses incident to accomplishing the foregoing;</p>			
Project #1			
Physical Education/Athletic Facilities, HVAC and Restrooms	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 2,000,000.00	June 30, 2025
Project #2			
Technology Improvement, Safety, and Security Improvements	300,000.00	300,000.00	June 30, 2025
Project #3			
Purchase/Repair of School Buses and Maintenance of Vehicles/Equipment	500,000.00	500,000.00	June 30, 2025
Project #4			
Purchase of Instructional Materials and Textbooks	300,000.00	300,000.00	June 30, 2025
Project #5			
Clearing grading of real property	200,000.00	200,000.00	June 30, 2025
Project #6			
Paving and renovations of properties	200,000.00	200,000.00	June 30, 2025
Total	\$ 3,500,000.00	\$ 3,500,000.00	

HANCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHEDULE OF APPROVED LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX PROJECTS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

SCHEDULE "10"

PROJECT	AMOUNT EXPENDED IN CURRENT YEAR (3) (4)	AMOUNT EXPENDED IN PRIOR YEARS (3) (4)	TOTAL COMPLETION COST	EXCESS PROCEEDS NOT EXPENDED
SPLOST 2021				
Adding to, renovating, modifying, improving, demolishing, furnishing and equipping existing school buildings and other buildings and facilities useful and desirable in connection therewith, including, but not limited to, HVAC, restrooms, additional classrooms, administrative facilities, gymnasiums and physical education/athletic facilities; (ii) acquiring technology improvements, including safety and security improvements and computer technology; (iii) acquiring new school equipment, including new buses, maintenance vehicles and maintenance equipment; (iv) acquiring textbooks and other instructional materials and band instruments; (v) clearing and grading of real property; (vi) destruction of existing buildings and facilities; (vii) acquiring any necessary or desirable property, both real and personal, including textbooks and band instruments, the maximum amount of the projects to be paid with sales and use tax proceeds with be \$3,500,000; and (viii) payment of expenses incident to accomplishing the foregoing;				
Project #1				
Physical Education/Athletic Facilities, HVAC and Restrooms	\$ 675,694.00	\$ 1,229,425.00	\$ -	\$ -
Project #2				
Technology Improvement, Safety, and Security Improvements	50,275.00	-	-	-
Project #3				
Purchase/Repair of School Buses and Maintenance of Vehicles/Equipment	122,475.00	-	-	-
Project #4				
Purchase of Instructional Materials and Textbooks	-	-	-	-
Project #5				
Clearing grading of real property	19,976.00	20,360.00	-	-
Project #6				
Paving and renovations of properties	-	-	-	-
Total	<u>\$ 868,420.00</u>	<u>\$ 1,249,785.00</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

- (1) The School District's original cost estimate as specified in the resolution calling for the imposition of the Local Option Sales Tax.
(2) The School District's current estimate of total cost for the projects. Includes all cost from project inception to completion.
(3) The voters of Hancock County approved the imposition of a 1% sales tax to fund the above projects and retire associated debt. Amounts expended for these projects may include sales tax proceeds, state, local property taxes and/or other funds over the life of the projects.
(4) The School District does not have any excess proceeds on hand not yet expended.

Section II

Compliance and Internal Control Reports



DOAA

Georgia Department
of Audits & Accounts

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

**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**

The Honorable Brian P. Kemp, Governor of Georgia
Members of the General Assembly of the State of Georgia
Members of the State Board of Education
and
Dr. Anton Anthony, Superintendent and Members of the
Hancock County Board of Education

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and fiduciary activities of the Hancock County Board of Education (School District) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the School District's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated February 12, 2026. We conducted our audit in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

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

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. However, as described in the accompanying *Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs*, we did identify certain deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses and significant deficiencies.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the School District's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. We consider the deficiency described in the accompanying *Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs* in finding FS 2024-003 to be a material weakness.

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. We consider the deficiencies described in the accompanying *Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs* in findings FS 2024-001 and FS 2024-002 to be significant deficiencies.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

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

School District's Response to Findings

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

Purpose of this Report

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

Respectfully submitted,



Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

February 12, 2026



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

The Honorable Brian P. Kemp, Governor of Georgia
Members of the General Assembly of the State of Georgia
Members of the State Board of Education
and
Dr. Anton Anthony, Superintendent and Members of the
Hancock County Board of Education

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

Qualified and Unmodified Opinions

We have audited the Hancock County Board of Education's (School District) 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 the School District's major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2024. The 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*.

Qualified Opinion on Education Stabilization Fund (84.425)

In our opinion, except for the noncompliance described in the "Basis for Qualified and Unmodified Opinions" section of our report, the School District complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on the Education Stabilization Fund (84.425) for the year ended June 30, 2024.

Unmodified Opinion on Each of the Other Major Federal Programs

In our opinion, the School District complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its other major federal programs identified in the *Summary of Auditor's Results* section of the accompanying *Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs* for the year ended June 30, 2024.

Basis for Qualified and Unmodified Opinions

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

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

Matters Giving Rise to Qualified Opinion on Education Stabilization Fund (84.425)

As described in the accompanying *Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs*, the School District did not comply with requirements regarding the Education Stabilization Fund (84.425) as described in finding FA 2024-001 for Activities Allowed or Unallowed, Allowable Costs/Cost Principles, and Reporting. Compliance with such requirements is necessary, in our opinion, for the School District to comply with requirements applicable to that program.

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 the School District's federal programs.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

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

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

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

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

Other Matters

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the School District's response to the noncompliance findings identified in our compliance audit and described in the accompanying *Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs*. The School District's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of compliance and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

Report on Internal Control over Compliance

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 and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. However, as discussed below, we did identify a certain deficiency in internal control over compliance that we consider to be a material weakness.

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 a 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. We consider the deficiency in internal control over compliance described in the accompanying *Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs* in finding FA 2024-001 to be a material weakness.

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 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.

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the School District's response to the internal control over compliance finding identified in our audit and described in the accompanying *Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs*. The School District's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of compliance and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

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.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg S. Griffin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line extending from the end.

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

February 12, 2026

Section III

Auditee's Response to Prior Year Findings and Questioned Costs

HANCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
AUDITEE'S RESPONSE
SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

PRIOR YEAR FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS

FS 2023-001 Internal Controls over Cash and Cash Equivalents

Finding Status: Unresolved

The School District will reassess internal control procedures related to cash to ensure that they are in place and operating effectively. A monitoring process has been established to provide reasonable assurance that transactions are processed according to established procedures. This finding should be resolved by the end of fiscal year 2026.

FS 2023-002 Internal Controls over Capital Assets

Repeat of Prior Year Finding: FS 2022-001, FS 2021-001, FS 2020-001, FS 2019-002, FS 2018-003, FS 2017-006, FS 2016-005, FS 2015-005, FS 2014-008, FS-6701-13-08, FS-6701-12-09

Finding Status: Previously Reported Corrective Action Implemented

FS 2022-001 Internal Controls over Capital Assets

Repeat of Prior Year Finding: FS 2021-001, FS 2020-001, FS 2019-002, FS 2018-003, FS 2017-006, FS 2016-005, FS 2015-005, FS 2014-008, FS-6701-13-08, FS-6701-12-09

Finding Status: Previously Reported Corrective Action Implemented

FS 2021-001 Internal Controls over Capital Assets

Repeat of Prior Year Finding: FS 2020-001, FS 2019-002, FS 2018-003, FS 2017-006, FS 2016-005, FS 2015-005, FS 2014-008, FS-6701-13-08, FS-6701-12-09

Finding Status: Previously Reported Corrective Action Implemented

FS 2020-001 Internal Controls over Capital Assets

Repeat of Prior Year Finding: FS 2019-002, FS 2018-003, FS 2017-006, FS 2016-005, FS 2015-005, FS 2014-008, FS-6701-13-08, FS-6701-12-09

Finding Status: Previously Reported Corrective Action Implemented

FS 2019-002 Internal Controls over Capital Assets

Repeat of Prior Year Finding: FS 2018-003, FS 2017-006, FS 2016-005, FS 2015-005, FS 2014-008, FS-6701-13-08, FS-6701-12-09

Finding Status: Previously Reported Corrective Action Implemented

HANCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
AUDITEE'S RESPONSE
SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

FS 2018-003 Internal Controls over Capital Assets

Repeat of Prior Year Finding: FS 2017-006, FS 2016-005, FS 2015-005,
FS 2014-008, FS-6701-13-08, FS-6701-12-09

Finding Status: Previously Reported Corrective Action Implemented

FS 2017-006 Internal Controls over Capital Assets

Repeat of Prior Year Finding: FS 2016-005, FS 2015-005, FS 2014-008,
FS-6701-13-08, FS-6701-12-09

Finding Status: Previously Reported Corrective Action Implemented

FS 2016-005 Internal Controls over Capital Assets

Repeat of Prior Year Finding: FS 2015-005, FS 2014-008, FS-6701-13-08,
FS-6701-12-09

Finding Status: Previously Reported Corrective Action Implemented

FS 2015-005 Internal Controls over Capital Assets

Repeat of Prior Year Finding: FS 2014-008, FS-6701-13-08, FS-6701-12-09

Finding Status: Previously Reported Corrective Action Implemented

FS 2014-008 Internal Controls over Capital Assets

Repeat of Prior Year Finding: FS-6701-13-08, FS-6701-12-09

Finding Status: Previously Reported Corrective Action Implemented

FS-6701-13-08 Internal Controls over Capital Assets

Repeat of Prior Year Finding: FS-6701-12-09

Finding Status: Previously Reported Corrective Action Implemented

FS-6701-12-09 Internal Controls over Capital Assets

Finding Status: Previously Reported Corrective Action Implemented

PRIOR YEAR FEDERAL AWARD FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

No matters were reported.

Section IV

Findings and Questioned Costs

**HANCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

I SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS

Financial Statements

Type of auditor's report issued:

Governmental Activities, Each Major Fund, and
Fiduciary Activities

Unmodified

Internal control over financial reporting:

- Material weakness(es) identified? Yes
- Significant deficiency(ies) identified? Yes

Noncompliance material to financial statements noted:

No

Federal Awards

Internal control over major programs:

- Material weakness(es) identified? Yes
- Significant deficiency(ies) identified? None Reported

Type of auditor's report issued on compliance for major programs:

Education Stabilization Fund (84.425)
All other major programs

Qualified
Unmodified

Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in
accordance with 2 CFR 200.516(a)?

Yes

Identification of major programs:

Assistance Listing Number

Assistance Listing Program or Cluster Title

84.010

Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies

84.425

Education Stabilization Fund

Dollar threshold used to distinguish between Type A and Type B programs:

\$750,000.00

Auditee qualified as low-risk auditee?

No

HANCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

II FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS

FS 2024-001 Internal Controls over Cash and Cash Equivalents

Internal Control Impact: Significant Deficiency
Repeat of Prior Year Finding: FS 2023-001

Description:

The School District's accounting procedures at the Central Office are not sufficient to ensure prevention or timely detection of errors related to cash management.

Criteria:

The School District's management is responsible for designing and maintaining a system of internal controls that provides reasonable assurance that transactions are properly authorized, recorded, and reported in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). These controls should ensure that cash accounts are accurately reconciled in a timely manner, within 45 days as recommended best practice.

Condition:

A review of June 30, 2024 bank reconciliations noted the following:

- Three bank accounts were not accurately reconciled and approved within the 45-day best practice timeframe. While each reconciliation included a single date, the absence of multiple dates and the lack of clear association between the date and a specific signature prevented auditors from determining when the reconciliations were completed or reviewed, and by whom.
- An item in the amount of \$545,120.82 was inaccurately recorded as a deposit in transit and included as a reconciling item, despite no corresponding deposit occurring.
- Three E-rate deposits totaling \$245,539.40 were incorrectly deposited into the Head Start account instead of the general account and were not recorded as cash on the books.
 - Three wire transfers totaling \$50,678.46 were recorded without the wire transfers being initiated.
- 86 reconciling items totaling \$89,509.19 could not be traced to subsequent period bank statements through September 2025. Notably, 12 of these items totaling \$63,600.00 related to architect and construction checks dated September 2023. The majority of the unreconciled items appear to be several months to multiple years old, raising concerns about the timeliness and accuracy of the reconciliation process.
- Payroll checks were issued without sufficient funds in the Payroll account. The bank cleared checks totaling \$431,109.65 in June 2024 on behalf of the School District, which prevented returned items but masked the underlying cash shortfall
- The beginning book balance on the general account reconciliation did not agree with the general ledger, resulting in a \$5,492.01 discrepancy.
- Two bank accounts did not have a bank reconciliation performed; however, the bank and book balances were in agreement.
- 28 vendor checks totaling \$1,456.64 (over five years old) and 34 payroll checks totaling \$17,361.76 (over one year old) had not been submitted as unclaimed property as required.

**HANCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

Cause:

These deficiencies occurred due to a lack of adherence to established internal control policies and procedures, insufficient oversight, and weaknesses in day-to-day financial management processes.

Effect:

The failure to maintain accurate and timely bank reconciliations, properly classify reconciling items, and ensure sufficient account balances increases the risk of undetected errors, misstatements, and potential misappropriation of funds. As a result, the cash balance at June 30, 2024 was overstated by \$251,963.81. Additionally, issuing payroll checks without sufficient funds could have resulted in returned payments, damaged vendor and employee trust, and reputational harm. These weaknesses also reduce the reliability of financial reporting and may impair the School District's ability to make informed financial decisions.

Recommendation:

Management should ensure that sufficient time and resources are dedicated to strengthening internal controls over cash management. This should include the timely and accurate preparation, review, and approval of all bank reconciliations—ideally within 45 days of month-end. Reconciling items should be promptly investigated, supported with appropriate documentation, and verified to represent true reconciling items rather than misclassified or unrecorded transactions. Items such as deposits in transit, outstanding checks, and wire transfers should be carefully reviewed to confirm accuracy and legitimacy prior to inclusion in the reconciliation.

Additionally, controls should also be implemented to verify that payroll accounts maintain sufficient balances prior to issuing disbursements. Lastly, management should implement procedures to ensure compliance with unclaimed property laws, including the timely submission of stale vendor and payroll checks.

Views of Responsible Officials:

We concur with this finding.

FS 2024-002 Internal Controls over Financial Reporting

Internal Control Impact:

Significant Deficiency

Description:

The School District did not have procedures in place to ensure prevention or timely detection of errors over the financial statement reporting process.

Criteria:

Management is responsible for maintaining effective internal controls over the preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). These controls should ensure completeness, accuracy, and proper presentation of financial information.

Internal controls over GAAP financial reporting should include adequately trained personnel with the knowledge, skills, and experience necessary to prepare financial statements in accordance with GAAP, including all required disclosures under Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) guidance.

**HANCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

GASB Statement No. 34, *Basic Financial Statements – Management’s Discussion and Analysis – for State and Local Governments* (Statement), requires governments to present government-wide and fund financial statements as well as a summary reconciliation of the (a) total governmental fund balances to the net position of governmental activities in the Statement of Net Position, and (b) total change in governmental fund balances to the change in the net position of governmental activities in the Statement of Activities.

Additionally, Chapter II - 2 *Annual Financial Reporting* of the Financial Management for Georgia Local Units of Administration provides that School Districts must prepare financial statements in accordance with GAAP.

Condition:

The following errors and omissions were noted in the School District’s financial statements, note disclosures and supplementary information presented for audit:

- Federal funds were overstated, and unavailable revenue was understated by \$885,989.00 in the general fund due to funds not being collected within the School District’s revenue recognition period of 120 days after year end. This misstatement was significant to the general fund. An adjustment was proposed by the auditors and accepted by the School District.
- Expenditures were understated by \$245,539.00 on the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards due to errors in reporting Emergency Connectivity Funds. An adjustment was proposed by the auditors and accepted by the School District.
- The School District did not attempt to correct interfund asset and liability balances totaling \$433,830.00, which originated from insurance proceeds received in fiscal year 2017 that were deposited into the general fund (\$461,311.00) rather than the capital projects fund. In addition, expenditures totaling \$27,481.00 were incurred in fiscal year 2019 in the capital projects fund, with cash disbursed from the general fund. These transactions were not eliminated or reclassified, resulting in unresolved interfund balances in the financial statements.
- Other audit adjustments and reclassifications were proposed by the auditors and accepted by the School District to properly present the School District’s financial statements, note disclosures and supplemental information.

Cause:

These issues were a result of the School District not reviewing the prepared financial statements prior to submission for audit.

Effect:

Significant misstatements were included in the financial statements presented for audit. The absence of sufficient internal controls and monitoring procedures increases the risk of undetected errors or omissions, which could result in inaccurate reporting of the School District’s financial position and results of operations.

**HANCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

Recommendation:

The School District should strengthen their internal controls and review procedures over the financial reporting process to ensure that the financial statements presented for audit are complete, accurate, and prepared in accordance with GAAP. These procedures should be performed by appropriately trained personnel who possess a thorough understanding of the relevant GAAP standards, GASB pronouncements, and the School District's financial operations.

Additionally, the School District should also consider implementing a formal financial statement review checklist to support consistency and accuracy in the preparation and review process.

Views of Responsible Officials:

We concur with this finding.

FS 2024-003 Internal Controls over Employee Health Benefits

Internal Control Impact:

Material Weakness

Description:

The School District's accounting procedures at the Central Office were not sufficient to ensure prevention or timely detection of errors related to employee health benefits, specifically the State Health Benefit Plan (SHBP). Procedures were not in place to ensure the timely remittance of both employee contributions withheld from payroll and employer contributions owed on behalf of employees, or the accurate recording of related expenses and liabilities.

Criteria:

The School District's management is responsible for designing and maintaining a system of internal controls that provides reasonable assurance that transactions are properly authorized, recorded and reported in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). These controls should ensure that employee and employer benefit payments, including SHBP contributions, are accurately recorded, timely remitted, and recognized in the proper accounting period.

Under Georgia Law:

- O.C.G.A. § 20-2-879 and applicable Department of Community Health guidance require employer entities to remit both employee and employer contributions to SHBP in a timely manner.
- O.C.G.A. § 16-8-4 (Theft by Conversion) and § 16-8-2 (Theft by Taking), establish that funds withheld from employees for specific purposes, such as health benefits, are fiduciary in nature and must not be used for other purposes.
- O.C.G.A. § 20-2-167 requires school districts to prepare a budget that reflects all anticipated revenues and expenditures.
- O.C.G.A. § 20-2-58 requires school districts to hold a regular meeting during each calendar year month for the transaction of business and to review the financial status of the local school system.
- Misuse or diversion of employee contributions, even if not intentional, can result in statutory violations and expose responsible officials to potential civil and criminal liability.

**HANCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

Lastly, GASB standards require that liabilities and related expenses be recorded in the proper period and that obligations, such as employee benefits, be appropriately recognized to present a fair representation of the School District's financial position.

Condition:

The following issues were noted related to employee health benefits in fiscal year 2024:

- Employee contributions for SHBP totaling \$172,100.60 were withheld from employees' payroll checks but not remitted to the plan for the months of December 2023 through June 2024. As of June 30, 2025, the School District did not owe any additional amounts for fiscal year 2024 employee contributions.
- The School District did not remit required employer contributions totaling \$1,364,474.92 for fiscal year 2024. In addition, as of June 30, 2025, the School District still owed \$34,601.63 related to the unpaid balance.
- As of June 30, 2025, the School District owed \$2,340,860.00 in employer contributions and \$252,104.69 in employee contributions for SHBP payments related to fiscal year 2025.
- The School District did not update the financial accounting system to reflect the increased employer contribution rates or employee benefit selections for SHBP, resulting in an understatement of SHBP expenses and related payables. As a result, net position was overstated by \$1,080,860.06.

Cause:

The School District did not have an effective process to ensure timely reconciliation and payment of SHBP contributions. Due to a staffing shortage of personnel with the necessary training and experience to perform payroll reconciliations, payments and reconciliations were delayed and had to be completed retroactively across multiple months. Additionally, there were historical discrepancies related to SHBP charges from fiscal years 2015 and 2017. Funds submitted by the School District were being applied by SHBP to these older periods, which the School District disputed. This led to the School District temporarily halting payments until SHBP resolved the issue and provided a final determination of the amounts due for fiscal year 2024.

Effect:

Material misstatements of payroll-related expenses and liabilities were included in the financial statements presented for audit. The failure to remit employee health contributions created a risk of interrupted employee coverage and noncompliance with statutory obligations. The lack of sufficient internal controls increases the likelihood of continued misreporting and noncompliance with statutory obligations.

Recommendation:

The School District should strengthen internal controls over employee health benefits to ensure compliance with statutory obligations and accurate financial reporting. Specifically, management should:

1. Establish a formal payment plan with the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) to ensure that all outstanding employee and employer contributions to the State Health Benefit Plan are remitted in full.
2. Ensure all ongoing employee and employer contributions to the State Health Benefit Plan (SHBP) are remitted on a timely basis

**HANCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

3. Implement a process to review each employee's health benefit elections upon election and effective date, ensuring that payroll deductions and employer contributions are accurately recorded in the financial accounting system. This process should include:
 - a. Verification of enrollment forms and effective dates.
 - b. Cross-referencing with payroll records to confirm accurate deductions and contributions.
 - c. Regular updates to the financial system to reflect any changes in employee elections, effective dates or adjustments to employer contributions.
4. Implement regular reconciliations of payroll deductions, employer contributions, and SHBP remittances to identify errors or omissions promptly.
5. Strengthen Board-level oversight by ensuring that the comparison of budgeted versus actual expenditures is accurate, timely, and complete, with any significant variances investigated and resolved
6. Develop standardized checklists and procedures to support consistent, accurate, and timely reporting of payroll-related benefits.
7. Provide appropriate training to financial personnel responsible for payroll and benefits and assign clear accountability for timely remittance and reporting of employee benefits.

Views of Responsible Officials:

We concur with this finding.

III FEDERAL AWARD FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

FA 2024-001 Improve Controls over Expenditures

Compliance Requirements:	Activities Allowed or Unallowed Allowable Costs/Cost Principles Reporting
Internal Control Impact:	Material Weakness
Compliance Impact:	Material Noncompliance
Federal Awarding Agency:	U.S. Department of Education
Pass-Through Entity:	Georgia Department of Education
AL Numbers and Titles:	COVID-19 – 84.425D – Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund COVID-19 – 84.425U – American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund
Federal Award Numbers:	S425D210012 (Year: 2021), S425U210012 (Year: 2021)
Questioned Costs:	\$819,799.49

Description:

The policies and procedures of the School District were insufficient to provide adequate internal controls over expenditures as it relates to the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund program.

**HANCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

Background:

On March 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law. The CARES Act was designed to mitigate the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in a variety of ways, including providing additional funding for local educational agencies (LEAs) navigating the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Provisions included in Title VIII of the CARES Act created the Education Stabilization Fund to provide financial resources to educational entities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus. The CARES Act allocated \$30.75 billion, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act allocated an additional \$81.9 billion, and the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act added \$165.1 billion in funding to the Education Stabilization Fund. Multiple Education Stabilization Fund subprograms were created and allotted funding through the various COVID-19-related legislation. Of these programs, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund was created to address the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools across the nation.

ESSER funding was granted to the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) by the U.S. Department of Education (ED). GaDOE is responsible for distributing funds to LEAs and overseeing the expenditure of funds by LEAs. ESSER funds totaling \$3,951,662.00 were expended and reported on the Hancock County Board of Education's Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (SEFA) for fiscal year 2024.

Criteria:

As a recipient of federal awards, the School District is required to establish and maintain effective internal control over federal awards that provides reasonable assurance of managing the federal awards in compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the federal awards pursuant to Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance), Section 200.303 – Internal Controls.

Provisions included in the Uniform Guidance, Section 200.403 – Factors Affecting Allowability of Costs state that “costs must meet the following general criteria in order to be allowable under Federal awards: (a) Be necessary and reasonable for the performance of the Federal award and be allocable thereto under these principles, (b) Conform to any limitations or exclusions set forth in these principles or in the Federal award as to types or amount of cost items, (c) Be consistent with policies and procedures that apply uniformly to both federally-financed and other activities of the non-Federal entity... (g) Be adequately documented...”

In addition, to assist school districts in improving their financial management systems and associated compliance over federal programs, GaDOE published the *Financial Management for Georgia Local Units of Administration* (FMGLUA) manual. The FMGLUA manual requires that LEAs submit a budget as part of each federal program's Consolidated Application process. The program budget reflects details regarding the manner in which each school district intends to expend the program funds. The Consolidated Application, including the budget, for each program must be reviewed and approved by GaDOE personnel before the LEA is authorized to expend program funds. Amendments to the budget are to be submitted to and approved by GaDOE when a school district intends to spend funds in a manner not initially reported.

**HANCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

LEA personnel must also provide program-specific assurances related to the ESSER program within the Consolidated Application system. These assurances are reflected in the Uniform Guidance, Section 200.415 – Required Certifications, and include provisions that require LEAs “to assure that expenditures are proper and in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Federal award and approved project budgets...”

Furthermore, provisions included in the Uniform Guidance, Section 200.430 – Compensation-Personal Services prescribe standards for documentation of personnel expenses and state, in part, that “(a) ... Costs for compensation are allowable to the extent that they satisfy... specific requirements..., and that the total compensation for individual employees: (1) is reasonable for the services rendered and conforms to the established written policy of the non-Federal entity consistently applied to both Federal and non-Federal activities; (2) Follows an appointment made in accordance with a non-Federal entity’s laws and/or rules or written policies and meets the requirements of Federal statute, where applicable; and (3) Is determined and supported as provided in paragraph (i)..., [as follows:] (i) Charges to Federal awards for salaries and wages must be based on records that accurately reflect the work performed. These records must: (i) Be supported by a system of internal control which provides reasonable assurance that the charges are accurate, allowable, and properly allocated; (ii) Be incorporated into the official records of the non-Federal entity...”

Lastly, provisions included in the Uniform Guidance, Section 200.302(a) state in part that “the non-Federal entity’s financial management systems must... be sufficient to permit the preparation of reports required by general and program-specific terms and conditions.” In addition, provisions included in the Uniform Guidance, Section 200.302(b)(2) state in part that the non-federal entity’s financial management system must provide for “accurate, current, and complete disclosure of the financial results of each Federal award or program in accordance with the reporting requirements.”

Condition:

A review of the School District’s accounting records and approved expenditures reflected within the ESSER program Consolidated Application reviewed the following deficiencies:

- A sample of 13 nonpersonal services expenditures was randomly selected for testing using a non-statistical sampling approach. These expenditures were reviewed to determine if appropriate internal controls were implemented and applicable compliance requirements were met. It was noted that prior approval was not obtained from GaDOE for two expenditures totaling \$505,229.40 as these expenditures were not reflected in the approved budget or subsequent amendment within the Consolidated Application system as required.
- A sample of 37 employees was randomly selected for testing using a non-statistical sampling approach. These employees were reviewed to determine if internal controls were implemented and applicable compliance requirements were met. It was noted that prior approval was not obtained from GaDOE for 29 expenditures totaling \$181,761.00 as these expenditures were not reflected in the approved budget or subsequent amendment within the Consolidated Application system as required.
- A review of indirect cost amounts charged to the ESSER program revealed that the total indirect cost amount budgeted by the School District, which totaled \$600,000.00, was recorded as indirect cost expenditures during the period under review. However, the School District should have applied the indirect cost rate approved by the GaDOE to actual

**HANCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

- expenditures incurred during the fiscal year to calculate a maximum indirect cost amount of \$467,190.96. Therefore, unallowable indirect costs totaling \$132,809.04 were recorded within the ESSER fund.
- Expenditures reported on the ARP ESSER completion report for the period July 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024 were not supported by the general ledger for several functions and objects reflected in the amended consolidated application.

Questioned Costs:

Upon testing a sample of \$690,319.93 in nonpersonal services expenditures, known questioned costs of \$505,229.40 were identified for expenditures not properly approved through the Consolidated Application process. Using the total nonpersonal services expenditures population of \$2,507,902.88, we project the likely questioned costs to be approximately \$1,835,476.87

In addition, upon testing a sample of \$418,831.17 in personal services expenditures, known questioned costs of \$181,761.05 were identified for expenditures not approved in the consolidated application. Using the total personal services expenditures population of \$1,303,995.07 (excluding benefits payments), we project the likely questioned costs to be approximately \$565,897.50.

Furthermore, known questioned costs \$132,809.04 were identified for unallowable indirect costs charged to the ESSER program.

Therefore, the known and likely questioned costs identified for all unallowable payments totaled \$819,799.49 and \$2,534,183.41, respectively. The following Assistance Listing Numbers were affected by known and likely questioned costs: 84.425D & 84.425U.

Cause:

In discussing this deficiency with the School District, they stated that they did not consider the expenditure purchases unallowable and recorded them in the wrong account number due to oversight. Indirect costs were charged according to the budget without regard of the appropriate indirect cost rate.

Effect:

The School District is not in compliance with the Uniform Guidance or GaDOE guidance related to the ESSER Program. Failure to accurately develop and amend budget information through the Consolidated Application process and verify compliance with applicable policies and regulations prior to the expenditure of federal program funds may expose the School District to unnecessary financial strains and shortages as GaDOE may require the School District to return funds associated with unapproved and unallowable expenditures.

Recommendation:

The School District should evaluate current internal control procedures related to the ESSER Program. Where vulnerable, the School District should develop and/or modify its policies and procedures to ensure that potential expenditures are approved through the Consolidated Application process and deemed to be allowable before spending federal funds. In addition, management should develop and implement a monitoring process to ensure that control procedures are being followed.

Views of Responsible Officials:

We concur with this finding.

Section V

Management's Corrective Action



CORRECTIVE ACTION **PLANS** - FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS

FS 2024-001 Internal Controls over Cash and Cash Equivalents

Internal Control Impact: Significant Deficiency
Repeat of Prior Year Finding: FS 2023-001

Description:

The School District's accounting procedures at the Central Office are not sufficient to ensure prevention or timely detection of errors related to cash management.

Corrective Action Plans:

The Hancock County School District has established procedures to ensure that all checks are voided in a timely manner. The School District has established a monitoring process to provide reasonable assurance that transactions are processed according to established procedures. Also, we will make sure that all transfers are made to the payroll account before paychecks are issued. In addition, we will make sure they we correct the deposit in transit items to the due to and due from section.

Estimated Completion Date: June 30, 2026

Contact Person: Matthias Jones, Finance Director

Telephone: (706) 444-5775 Ext. 125

Email: mjones@hancock.k12.ga.us

FS 2024-002 Internal Controls over Financial Reporting

Internal Control Impact: Significant Deficiency

Description:

The School District did not have procedures place to ensure prevention or timely detection of errors over the financial statement reporting process.

Corrective Action Plans:

The School District will strengthen internal controls and review procedures over the financial reporting process to ensure that the financial statements presented for audit are complete and accurate. In addition, the School District will work with the consultant in preparation of the annual financial statements and seek training opportunities to ensure the applicable GAAP statement, GASB pronouncements and School District's activities are more accurately reviewed utilizing the checklist provided by D0AA prior to transmittal for audit.



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Estimated Completion Date: June 30, 2026

Contact Person: Matthias Jones, Finance Director

Telephone: (706) 444-5775 Ext. 125

Email: mjones@hancock.k12.ga.us

FS 2024-003 Internal Controls over Employee Health Benefits

Internal Control Impact:

Material Weakness

Description:

The School District's accounting procedures at the Central Office were not sufficient to ensure prevention or timely detection of errors related to employee health benefits, specifically the State Health Benefit Plan (SHBP). Procedures were not in place to ensure the timely remittance of both employee contributions withheld from payroll and employer contributions owed on behalf of employees, or the accurate recording of related expenses and liabilities.

Corrective Action Plans:

The Hancock County School District has recently hired a part time worker to help in case this situation occurs again. I, the Finance Director and the part time worker, are in training to learn different roles in the finance department to ensure that this do not happen again. We also have strengthened our policies and procedures to ensure that all benefits are reconciled and paid in a timely manner each month.

Estimated Completion Date: June 30, 2026

Contact Person: Matthias Jones, Finance Director

Telephone: (706) 444-5775 Ext. 125

Email: mjones@hancock.k12.ga.us



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CORRECTIVE ACTION PLANS - FEDERAL AWARD FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

FA 2024-001 Improve Controls over Expenditures

Compliance Requirement:

**Activities Allowed or Unallowed
Allowable Costs/Cost Principles
Reporting**

Internal Control Impact:

Material Weakness

Compliance Impact:

Material Noncompliance

Federal Awarding Agency:

U.S. Department of Education

Pass-Through Entity:

Georgia Department of Education

Assistance Listing Number and Title: COVID-19 - 84.425D - Elementary and Secondary
School Emergency Relief Fund

COVID-19 - 84.425U - American Rescue Plan

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund

Federal Award Number:

S425D210012 (Year: 2021), S425U210012 (Year: 2021)

Questioned Costs:

\$819,799.49

Description:

The policies and procedures of the School District were insufficient to provide adequate internal controls over expenditures as it relates to the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund program.

Corrective Action Plans:

The Hancock County School District has updated the policies and procedures to ensure that these coding errors do not occur in the future. The updates included but are not limited to: The District has corrected the coding in the general ledger for FY 26 and has implemented additional coding cross-checks to ensure alignment with the approved Con App. The function/object coding has been corrected in the FY 26 budget crosswalk, and coding protocols have been reinforced. Personnel coding has been corrected, and a verification procedure is now in place at the point of hiring and funding assignment. The Federal Program department will meet with the Finance Department to review funding codes prior to submission.

Estimated Completion Date: June 30, 2026



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Contact Person: Matthias Jones, Finance Director

Telephone: (706) 444-5775 Ext. 125

Email: mjones@hancock.k12.ga.us

Signature:

Matthias Jones

Title:

Finance Director

Anton Anthony
Dr. Anton Anthony, Superintendent

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