



ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT • FISCAL YEAR 2025

Lowndes County Board of Education Valdosta, Georgia

Including Independent Auditor's Report

Greg S. Griffin | State Auditor



DOAA

Georgia Department
of Audits & Accounts

Lowndes 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
Mrs. Sandra Wilcher, Superintendent and Members of the
Lowndes County Board of Education

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of the Lowndes County Board of Education (School District) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025, 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 and each major fund of the School District as of June 30, 2025, 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.

Emphasis of Matter

As described in Note 2 to the financial statements, in 2025, the School District adopted new accounting guidance, Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*. The School District restated beginning balances for the effect of GASB Statement No. 101. Our opinions are not modified with respect to this matter.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with 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 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 March 2, 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 that reads "Greg S. Griffin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

March 2, 2026

Lowndes County Board of Education

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
JUNE 30, 2025

EXHIBIT "A"

	<u>GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 107,848,876.40
Accounts Receivable, Net	
Taxes	3,987,295.03
State Government	11,614,536.67
Federal Government	1,660,128.48
Other	465,050.66
Inventories	254,330.93
Other Current Assets	9,075.00
Capital Assets, Non-Depreciable	76,208,876.67
Capital Assets, Depreciable (Net of Accumulated Depreciation)	213,945,867.16
Total Assets	415,994,037.00
 <u>DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES</u>	
Deferred Charge on Debt Refunding	121,959.45
Related to Defined Benefit Pension Plan	33,631,799.00
Related to OPEB Plan	14,670,841.48
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	48,424,599.93
 <u>LIABILITIES</u>	
Accounts Payable	2,325,528.16
Salaries and Benefits Payable	16,574,179.74
Payroll Withholdings Payable	3,686,537.57
Interest Payable	80,859.25
Contracts Payable	4,826,018.27
Retainages Payable	1,933,354.96
Deposits and Unearned Revenues	338,780.00
Net Pension Liability	105,244,896.00
Net OPEB Liability	65,613,392.00
Long-Term Liabilities	
Due Within One Year	3,883,734.91
Due in More Than One Year	10,785,032.78
Total Liabilities	215,292,313.64
 <u>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</u>	
Related to Defined Benefit Pension Plan	17,009,773.00
Related to OPEB Plan	19,533,095.00
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	36,542,868.00
 <u>NET POSITION</u>	
Net Investment in Capital Assets	279,115,839.48
Restricted for	
Continuation of Federal Programs	3,821,087.66
Debt Service	705,590.75
Capital Projects	17,177,037.12
Unrestricted (Deficit)	(88,236,099.72)
Total Net Position	\$ 212,583,455.29

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

EXHIBIT "B"

	PROGRAM REVENUES				NET (EXPENSES)
EXPENSES	CHARGES FOR SERVICES	OPERATING GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS	CAPITAL GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS	REVENUES AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION	
GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES					
Instruction	\$ 97,888,639.04	\$ 1,109,549.77	\$ 69,437,098.77	\$ 3,917,270.82	\$ (23,424,719.68)
Support Services					
Pupil Services	7,655,730.65	-	859,006.66	379,085.42	(6,417,638.57)
Improvement of Instructional Services	6,508,943.95	-	3,368,700.86	-	(3,140,243.09)
Educational Media Services	1,971,396.24	-	1,761,727.00	39,838.08	(169,831.16)
General Administration	1,734,178.72	-	2,423,235.07	132,294.45	821,350.80
School Administration	6,655,254.01	-	3,208,312.92	7,885.83	(3,439,055.26)
Business Administration	2,509,456.59	-	35,652.01	7,199.04	(2,466,605.54)
Maintenance and Operation of Plant	11,390,395.43	-	3,858,314.47	155,467.74	(7,376,613.22)
Student Transportation Services	8,272,650.55	-	3,478,707.19	176,220.00	(4,617,723.36)
Central Support Services	2,800,881.01	-	27,879.52	47,701.78	(2,725,299.71)
Other Support Services	1,933,069.36	-	491,948.92	854.55	(1,440,265.89)
Operations of Non-Instructional Services					
Enterprise Operations	839,519.20	4,420.00	-	-	(835,099.20)
Community Services	9,962.83	-	-	-	(9,962.83)
Food Services	7,351,028.40	168,044.20	6,419,402.65	149,052.69	(614,528.86)
Interest on Long-Term Debt	125,844.69	-	-	-	(125,844.69)
Total Governmental Activities	\$ 157,646,950.67	\$ 1,282,013.97	\$ 95,369,986.04	\$ 5,012,870.40	(55,982,080.26)
General Revenues					
Taxes					
Property Taxes					
For Maintenance and Operations					42,146,790.36
Other Taxes					101,586.36
Sales Taxes					
Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax					
For Debt Services					1,447,275.00
For Capital Projects					18,678,858.59
Other Sales Tax					865,862.93
Grants and Contributions not Restricted to Specific Programs					16,256,503.00
Investment Earnings					4,660,311.47
Miscellaneous					5,239,449.22
Total General Revenues					89,396,636.93
Change in Net Position					33,414,556.67
Net Position - Beginning of Year, as Previously Presented					187,584,396.90
Change in Accounting Principle - GASB Statement No. 101					(8,415,498.28)
Net Position - Beginning of Year, as Restated					179,168,898.62
Net Position - End of Year					\$ 212,583,455.29

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
BALANCE SHEET
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
JUNE 30, 2025

EXHIBIT "C"

	<u>GENERAL</u> <u>FUND</u>	<u>CAPITAL</u> <u>PROJECTS</u> <u>FUND</u>	<u>DEBT</u> <u>SERVICE</u> <u>FUND</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>				
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 56,594,806.33	\$ 50,464,620.07	\$ 789,450.00	\$ 107,848,876.40
Accounts Receivable, Net				
Taxes	2,277,198.10	1,710,096.93	-	3,987,295.03
State Government	11,614,536.67	-	-	11,614,536.67
Federal Government	1,660,128.48	-	-	1,660,128.48
Other	465,050.66	-	-	465,050.66
Inventories	254,330.93	-	-	254,330.93
Other Current Assets	9,075.00	-	-	9,075.00
	<u>72,875,126.17</u>	<u>52,174,717.00</u>	<u>789,450.00</u>	<u>125,839,293.17</u>
Total Assets	\$ <u>72,875,126.17</u>	\$ <u>52,174,717.00</u>	\$ <u>789,450.00</u>	\$ <u>125,839,293.17</u>
<u>LIABILITIES</u>				
Accounts Payable	1,324,848.28	997,679.88	3,000.00	2,325,528.16
Salaries and Benefits Payable	16,574,179.74	-	-	16,574,179.74
Payroll Withholdings Payable	3,686,537.57	-	-	3,686,537.57
Contracts Payable	-	4,826,018.27	-	4,826,018.27
Retainages Payable	-	1,933,354.96	-	1,933,354.96
Deposits and Unearned Revenues	338,780.00	-	-	338,780.00
Total Liabilities	<u>21,924,345.59</u>	<u>7,757,053.11</u>	<u>3,000.00</u>	<u>29,684,398.70</u>
<u>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</u>				
Unavailable Revenue - Property Taxes	816,699.34	-	-	816,699.34
<u>FUND BALANCES</u>				
Nonspendable	254,330.93	-	-	254,330.93
Restricted	3,627,165.79	10,417,663.89	786,450.00	14,831,279.68
Committed	1,730,481.74	-	-	1,730,481.74
Assigned	410,159.13	34,000,000.00	-	34,410,159.13
Unassigned	44,111,943.65	-	-	44,111,943.65
Total Fund Balances	<u>50,134,081.24</u>	<u>44,417,663.89</u>	<u>786,450.00</u>	<u>95,338,195.13</u>
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Fund Balances	\$ <u>72,875,126.17</u>	\$ <u>52,174,717.00</u>	\$ <u>789,450.00</u>	\$ <u>125,839,293.17</u>

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
 RECONCILIATION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS BALANCE SHEET
 TO THE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
 JUNE 30, 2025

EXHIBIT "D"

Total fund balances - governmental funds (Exhibit "C")	\$	95,338,195.13
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	\$ 36,807,131.14	
Construction in progress	39,401,745.53	
Buildings and improvements	258,872,634.42	
Equipment	26,754,850.04	
Land improvements	24,045,691.85	
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(95,727,309.15)</u>	290,154,743.83
Some liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.		
Net pension liability	\$ (105,244,896.00)	
Net OPEB liability	<u>(65,613,392.00)</u>	(170,858,288.00)
Deferred charges or credits on debt refundings are applicable to future periods and are therefore not reported in the funds and are amortized over the life of the new debt.		
		121,959.45
Deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to pension/OPEB are applicable to future periods and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.		
Related to pension	\$ 16,622,026.00	
Related to OPEB	<u>(4,862,253.52)</u>	11,759,772.48
Taxes that are not available to pay for current period expenditures are deferred in the funds.		
		816,699.34
Long-term liabilities, and related accrued interest, are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds.		
Bonds payable	\$ (5,410,000.00)	
Accrued interest payable	(80,859.25)	
Unamortized bond premiums	(763,985.57)	
Compensated absences payable	<u>(8,494,782.12)</u>	(14,749,626.94)
Net position of governmental activities (Exhibit "A")	\$	<u><u>212,583,455.29</u></u>

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

EXHIBIT "E"

	GENERAL FUND	CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND	DEBT SERVICE FUND	TOTAL
<u>REVENUES</u>				
Property Taxes	\$ 42,226,962.90	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 42,226,962.90
Sales Taxes	865,862.93	18,678,858.59	1,447,275.00	20,991,996.52
State Funds	98,992,926.38	4,836,650.40	-	103,829,576.78
Federal Funds	14,335,294.90	-	-	14,335,294.90
Charges for Services	1,282,013.97	-	-	1,282,013.97
Investment Earnings	3,081,867.51	1,578,443.96	-	4,660,311.47
Miscellaneous	5,239,449.22	-	-	5,239,449.22
Total Revenues	<u>166,024,377.81</u>	<u>25,093,952.95</u>	<u>1,447,275.00</u>	<u>192,565,605.76</u>
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>				
Current				
Instruction	90,859,535.65	1,624,892.57	-	92,484,428.22
Support Services				
Pupil Services	6,810,913.15	273,708.03	-	7,084,621.18
Improvement of Instructional Services	6,526,325.09	-	-	6,526,325.09
Educational Media Services	1,929,488.09	-	-	1,929,488.09
General Administration	1,525,950.54	-	-	1,525,950.54
School Administration	6,681,542.58	-	-	6,681,542.58
Business Administration	2,501,489.50	-	-	2,501,489.50
Maintenance and Operation of Plant	11,904,731.83	354,259.50	-	12,258,991.33
Student Transportation Services	7,622,948.45	2,803,207.50	-	10,426,155.95
Central Support Services	1,829,260.16	915,910.42	-	2,745,170.58
Other Support Services	1,932,563.73	-	-	1,932,563.73
Enterprise Operations	839,519.20	-	-	839,519.20
Community Services	9,962.83	-	-	9,962.83
Food Services Operation	7,374,778.57	-	-	7,374,778.57
Capital Outlay	-	37,547,826.03	-	37,547,826.03
Debt Services				
Principal	-	-	555,000.00	555,000.00
Dues and Fees	-	-	4,075.00	4,075.00
Interest	-	-	213,100.00	213,100.00
Total Expenditures	<u>148,349,009.37</u>	<u>43,519,804.05</u>	<u>772,175.00</u>	<u>192,640,988.42</u>
Revenues over (under) Expenditures	<u>17,675,368.44</u>	<u>(18,425,851.10)</u>	<u>675,100.00</u>	<u>(75,382.66)</u>
<u>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</u>				
Transfers In	-	34,000,000.00	-	34,000,000.00
Transfers Out	(34,000,000.00)	-	-	(34,000,000.00)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	<u>(34,000,000.00)</u>	<u>34,000,000.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Change in Fund Balances	(16,324,631.56)	15,574,148.90	675,100.00	(75,382.66)
Fund Balances - Beginning	<u>66,458,712.80</u>	<u>28,843,514.99</u>	<u>111,350.00</u>	<u>95,413,577.79</u>
Fund Balances - Ending	<u>\$ 50,134,081.24</u>	<u>\$ 44,417,663.89</u>	<u>\$ 786,450.00</u>	<u>\$ 95,338,195.13</u>

LOWNDES 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, 2025

EXHIBIT "F"

Net change in fund balances total governmental funds (Exhibit "E") \$ (75,382.66)

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	\$	40,414,660.13	
Depreciation expense		<u>(7,241,440.14)</u>	33,173,219.99

The net effect of various miscellaneous transactions involving capital assets (i.e., sales, trade-ins, donations, and disposals) is to decrease net position. (195,926.53)

Taxes reported in the Statement of Activities that do not provide current financial resources are not reported as revenues in the funds. 21,413.82

The issuance of long-term debt provides current financial resources to governmental funds, while the repayment of the principal of long-term debt consumes the current financial resources of governmental funds. Neither transaction, however, has any effect on net position. Also, governmental funds report the effect of premiums, discounts and the difference between the carrying value of refunded debt and the acquisition cost of refunded debt when debt is first issued. These amounts are deferred and amortized in the Statement of Activities.

Amortization of deferred charge on refunding of bonds	\$	(16,047.29)	
Intergovernmental agreement payments		555,000.00	
Amortization of bond premium		<u>100,524.42</u>	639,477.13

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	\$	(2,499,446.90)	
OPEB expense		<u>2,423,632.48</u>	(75,814.42)

Some items reported in the Statement of Activities do not require the use of current financial resources and therefore are not reported as expenditures in governmental funds.

Net decrease in accrued interest	\$	6,853.18	
Compensated absences		<u>(79,283.84)</u>	<u>(72,430.66)</u>

Change in net position of governmental activities (Exhibit "B") \$ 33,414,556.67

NOTE 1: DESCRIPTION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT AND REPORTING ENTITY

Reporting Entity

The Lowndes 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. 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 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. **Net investment in capital assets** consists of the School District's total investment in capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, and reduced by outstanding debt obligations related to those capital assets. To the extent debt has been incurred but not yet expended for capital assets, such amounts are not included as a component of net investment in capital assets.
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.

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

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. Eliminations have been made to minimize the double counting of internal activities. 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) and grants from Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission that are restricted, committed or assigned for capital outlay expenditures, including the acquisition or construction of capital facilities and other capital assets.
- The debt service fund accounts for and reports financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned including taxes (sales) legally restricted for the payment of general long-term principal and interest.

Basis of Accounting

The basis of accounting determines when transactions are reported on the financial statements. The government-wide 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.

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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 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, except for principal and interest on general long-term debt and compensated absences, which are recognized as expenditures to the extent they have matured. Capital asset acquisitions are reported as expenditures in governmental funds. Proceeds of general long-term liabilities are reported as other financing sources.

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 2025, the School District adopted Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*, which supersedes prior requirements under GASB Statement No. 16. The objective of this statement is to better meet the information needs of financial statement users by updating the recognition and measurement guidance for compensated absences. This is achieved by aligning the recognition and measurement guidance under a unified model and by amending certain previously required disclosures. Under the new standard, a liability is recognized when an employee earns leave that carries forward to a future reporting period and is more likely than not to be used, paid out or otherwise settled. The implementation required the School District to reevaluate and revise its recognition and measurement of compensated absences, including applying the "more likely than not" threshold to determine expected usage and payout. This approach is expected to provide a more accurate and complete estimate of the School District's compensated absences liability. The adoption of this statement had a material impact and has been reported as a restatement of beginning net position. This statement will be applied retrospectively.

In fiscal year 2025, the School District adopted Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 102, *Certain Risk Disclosures*. The objective of this statement is to provide financial statement users with essential information about risks related to a government's vulnerabilities due to certain concentrations or constraints. 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.

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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.

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.

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	Any Amount	N/A
Land Improvements	\$ 100,000.00	20 to 50 years
Buildings and Improvements	\$ 50,000.00	15 to 50 years
Equipment	\$ 25,000.00	5 to 30 years
Intangible Assets	\$ 1,000,000.00	30 years
Leases	\$ 50,000.00	By Term
Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements	\$ 50,000.00	By Term

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.

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.

Compensated Absences

Compensated absences payable consists of leave benefits, such as vacation and other forms of paid leave, that employees earned based on services already rendered. Compensated absences are recognized as a liability when the leave accumulates, is attributable to past service, and it is more likely than not that the leave will be used or paid.

The majority of the School District's compensated absences liability is comprised of vacation and sick leave.

Vacation leave of 10 days is awarded on a fiscal year basis to all full-time personnel employed on a twelve-month basis. No other employees are eligible to earn vacation leave. Vacation leave not utilized during the fiscal year may be carried over to the next fiscal year, providing such vacation leave does not exceed 20 days. Upon terminating employment, the School District pays all unused and unforfeited vacation benefits to employees. Accordingly, vacation benefits are accrued as a liability in the government-wide financial statements. A liability for these amounts is reported in the governmental fund financial statements only if they have matured, for example, as a result of employee resignations and retirements by fiscal-year end.

Sick leave is earned at a rate of 1.25 days per month for eligible employees. Unused sick leave may be accumulated up to a maximum of 75 days. The School District does not provide for payout of unused sick leave upon resignation or retirement; accordingly, the liability represents the portion of accumulated sick leave that is more likely than not to be used by employees during active employment.

Members of the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia (TRS) may apply unused sick leave toward retirement service credit. This benefit is administered and funded by TRS; therefore, the related liability is not reported by the School District.

Long-Term Liabilities and Bond Discounts/Premiums

In the School District's government-wide financial statements, outstanding debt is reported as liabilities. Bond premiums and discounts and the difference between the reacquisition price and the net carrying value of refunded debt are deferred and amortized over the life of the bonds using the straight-line method. To conform to generally accepted accounting principles, bond premiums and discounts should be amortized using the effective interest method. The effect of this deviation is deemed to be immaterial to the fair presentation of the basic financial statements. Bond issuance costs are recognized as an outflow of resources in the fiscal year in which the bonds are issued.

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In the governmental fund financial statements, the School District recognizes the proceeds of debt and premiums as other financing sources of the current period. Bond issuance costs are reported as debt service expenditures.

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 Lowndes County Board of Commissioners adopted the property tax levy for the 2024 tax digest year (calendar year) on October 18, 2024 (levy date) based on property values as of January 1, 2024. Taxes were due on December 30, 2024 (lien date). Taxes collected within the current fiscal year or within 60 days after year-end on the 2024 tax digest are reported as revenue in the governmental funds for fiscal year 2025. The Lowndes County Tax Commissioner bills and collects the property taxes for the School District. Property tax revenues, at the fund reporting level, during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, for maintenance and operations amounted to \$37,140,434.13.

The tax millage rate levied for the 2024 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>14.00</u> mills
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Additionally, Title Ad Valorem Tax revenues, at the fund reporting level, amounted to \$4,984,942.41 during fiscal year ended June 30, 2025.

Sales Taxes

Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST), at the fund reporting level, during the year amounted to \$20,126,133.59 and is to be used for capital outlay for educational purposes or debt service. 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, debt service 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.

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

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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.

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
- (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.

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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, 2025, the School District had deposits with a carrying amount of \$47,043,395.43, and a bank balance of \$48,580,970.74. The bank balances insured by Federal depository insurance were \$1,000,500.59 and the bank balances collateralized with securities held in the School District's name were \$47,110,960.98.

At June 30, 2025, \$469,509.17 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 warrant. 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	\$	107,848,876.40
Less:		
Cash on hand		2,500.00
Investment pools reported as cash and cash equivalents		
Georgia Fund 1		60,802,980.97
Total carrying value of deposits - June 30, 2025	\$	47,043,395.43

Categorization of Cash Equivalents

The School District reported cash equivalents of \$60,802,980.97 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 AAf 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, 2025 was 51 days.

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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 during the fiscal year:

	<u>Balances</u> <u>July 1, 2024</u>	<u>Increases</u>	<u>Decreases</u>	<u>Balances</u> <u>June 30, 2025</u>
Governmental Activities				
Capital Assets,				
Not Being Depreciated:				
Land	\$ 36,807,131.14	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,807,131.14
Construction in Progress	<u>6,316,871.91</u>	<u>37,026,111.29</u>	<u>3,941,237.67</u>	<u>39,401,745.53</u>
 Total Capital Assets				
Not Being Depreciated	<u>43,124,003.05</u>	<u>37,026,111.29</u>	<u>3,941,237.67</u>	<u>76,208,876.67</u>
 Capital Assets,				
Being Depreciated:				
Buildings and Improvements	255,397,538.75	3,800,162.67	325,067.00	258,872,634.42
Equipment	24,530,861.19	3,388,548.84	1,164,559.99	26,754,850.04
Land Improvements	23,904,616.85	141,075.00	-	24,045,691.85
 Less Accumulated				
Depreciation:				
Buildings and Improvements	65,449,730.14	5,171,473.92	177,345.40	70,443,858.66
Equipment	15,391,831.59	1,422,049.90	1,116,355.06	15,697,526.43
Land Improvements	<u>8,938,007.74</u>	<u>647,916.32</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,585,924.06</u>
 Total Capital Assets,				
Being Depreciated, Net	<u>214,053,447.32</u>	<u>88,346.37</u>	<u>195,926.53</u>	<u>213,945,867.16</u>
 Governmental Activities				
Capital Assets - Net	<u>\$ 257,177,450.37</u>	<u>\$ 37,114,457.66</u>	<u>\$ 4,137,164.20</u>	<u>\$ 290,154,743.83</u>

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Current year depreciation expense by function is as follows:

Instruction		\$	4,766,284.50
Support Services			
Pupil Services	\$		567,929.72
Educational Media Services			59,683.75
General Administration			198,197.94
School Administration			11,814.21
Business Administration			10,785.30
Maintenance and Operation of Plant			232,915.19
Student Transportation Services			1,097,780.07
Central Support Services			71,464.79
Other Support Services			1,280.25
			2,251,851.22
Food Services			223,304.42
			\$ 7,241,440.14

NOTE 6: INTERFUND TRANSFERS

Interfund transfers for the year ended June 30, 2025, consisted of the following:

Transfers to	Transfers From General Fund
Capital Projects Fund	\$ 34,000,000.00

Transfers are used to move property tax revenues collected by the general fund to the capital projects fund as required match or supplemental funding source for capital construction projects.

NOTE 7: LONG-TERM LIABILITIES

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

	Governmental Activities					
	Balance July 1, 2024				Balance	Due Within One
	Restated	Additions	Deductions	June 30, 2025	Year	
Intergovernmental Agreements	\$ 5,965,000.00	\$ -	\$ 555,000.00	\$ 5,410,000.00	\$ 590,000.00	
Unamortized Revenue Bond Premiums	864,509.99	-	100,524.42	763,985.57	100,524.42	
Compensated Absences (1)	8,415,498.28	79,283.84	-	8,494,782.12	3,193,210.49	
	\$ 15,245,008.27	\$ 79,283.84	\$ 655,524.42	\$ 14,668,767.69	\$ 3,883,734.91	

(1) Net changes in the compensated absences liability are reported as increases or decreases accordingly.

General Obligation Bonds

Of the total amount originally authorized, \$113,400,000.00 remains unissued. There are no general obligation bonds currently outstanding as of June 30, 2025.

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Intergovernmental Agreement

The School District entered into a contract with the Lowndes County Public Facilities Authority, dated December 30, 2020, for the issuance of revenue bonds to provide funds for refunding an energy efficiency lease with Ameris Bank. Under the terms of the contract, the Lowndes County Public Facilities Authority issued \$7,415,000.00 in revenue bonds on behalf of the School District. The obligation of the School District is absolute and unconditional so long as any of the bonds remain outstanding. Under the contract, the School District will exercise its power of taxation to the extent necessary to pay the amounts required to be paid by the contract.

Additional security is provided by the State of Georgia Intercept Program which allows for state appropriations entitled to the School District to be transferred to the Debt Service Account Custodian for the payment of debt.

Debt currently outstanding under this Intergovernmental Agreement is as follows:

Purpose	Interest Rates	Issue Date	Maturity Date	Amount Issued	Amount Outstanding
Lowndes County School District Projects	3.00% - 4.00%	12/30/2020	2/1/2033	\$ 7,415,000.00	\$ 5,410,000.00

The following is a schedule of total Intergovernmental Agreement payments:

Fiscal Year Ended June 30:	Revenue Bond		Unamortized Bond Premium
	Principal	Interest	
2026	\$ 590,000.00	\$ 196,450.00	\$ 100,524.42
2027	635,000.00	172,850.00	100,524.42
2028	680,000.00	147,450.00	100,524.42
2029	730,000.00	120,250.00	100,524.42
2030	780,000.00	91,050.00	100,524.42
2031 - 2033	1,995,000.00	102,450.00	261,363.47
Total Principal and Interest	\$ 5,410,000.00	\$ 830,500.00	\$ 763,985.57

Compensated Absences

Compensated absences represent obligations of the School District relating to leave benefits earned by employees based upon service already rendered. This obligation relates only to vested and accumulated leave in which it is more likely than not that payment will be made or the leave will be used, and the amount can be reasonably estimated as of the measurement date. Typically, the general fund is the fund used to liquidate this long-term debt. The School District uses the vesting method to compute compensated absences.

For fiscal year 2025, the School District began recording the accumulated compensated absences liability at June 30 in the government-wide financial statements due to the implementation of a new accounting standard. This is a change in accounting principle.

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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; and natural disasters. Except as described below, the School District carries commercial insurance for these risks. Settled claims resulting from these insured risks have not exceed commercial insurance coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.

Unemployment Compensation

The School District is self-insured with regard to unemployment compensation claims. In connection with this program, a self-insurance reserve has been established within the general fund by the School District. 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:

	<u>Beginning of Year Liability</u>	<u>Claims and Changes in Estimates</u>	<u>Claims Paid</u>	<u>End of Year Liability</u>
2024	\$ 63,595.33	\$ -	\$ 63,595.33	\$ -
2025	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Surety Bond

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

<u>Position Covered</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Superintendent	\$ 25,000.00

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NOTE 9: FUND BALANCE CLASSIFICATION DETAILS

The School District's financial statements include the following amounts presented in the aggregate at June 30, 2025:

Nonspendable		
Inventories	\$	254,330.93
Restricted		
Continuation of Federal Programs	\$ 3,627,165.79	
Capital Projects	10,417,663.89	
Debt Service	786,450.00	14,831,279.68
Committed		
School Activity Accounts		1,730,481.74
Assigned		
Local Capital Outlay Projects	\$ 34,000,000.00	
Self-Insurance	410,159.13	34,410,159.13
Unassigned		44,111,943.65
Fund Balance, June 30, 2025	\$	95,338,195.13

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: BROADBAND SPECTRUM AGREEMENT

Effective June 17, 2008, the School District entered into a 10-year use agreement with Utopian Wireless Corporation, now Spring Spectrum Holdings, for the use of excess spectrum capacity on Education Broadband Service licenses currently held by the School District. On December 13, 2018, this agreement was renewed for another 10-year term. These licenses were granted to the School District by the Federal Communications Commission. The agreement requires monthly payments over the term of the agreement, of which \$18,000.00 was recognized during fiscal year 2025 as a general revenue on the Statement of Activities.

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NOTE 11: SIGNIFICANT COMMITMENTS

Commitments under Construction Contracts

The following is an analysis of significant outstanding construction or renovation contracts executed by the School District as of June 30, 2025, together with funding available:

Project	Unearned Executed Contracts (1)	Payments through June 30, 2025 (2)	Funding Available From State (1)
DES Classroom Wing Addition	\$ 1,306,274.10	\$ 5,884,586.23	\$ -
New Lake Park Elementary	20,026,986.73	26,198,328.53	537,405.60
Pine Grove MS HVAC Replacement	219,565.17	2,357,574.83	
Pine Grove ES Chiller Replacement	114,694.65	1,247,299.86	-
	<u>\$ 21,667,520.65</u>	<u>\$ 35,687,789.45</u>	<u>\$ 537,405.60</u>

(1) The amounts described are not reflected in the basic financial statements.

(2) Payments include contracts and retainages payable at year-end.

NOTE 12: 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 13: 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

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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 \$2,534,573.48 for the year ended June 30, 2025. Active employees are not required to contribute to the School OPEB Fund.

During fiscal year 2025, the State of Georgia, through the State Health Benefit Plan (SHBP) administered by the Department of Community Health, made an on-behalf contribution in the amount of \$1,481,031.52 for the School District's employees.

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

At June 30, 2025, the School District reported a liability of \$65,613,392.00 for its proportionate share of the net OPEB liability. The net OPEB liability was measured as of June 30, 2024. The total OPEB liability used to calculate the net OPEB liability was based on an actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2023. An expected total OPEB liability as of June 30, 2024 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, 2024. At June 30, 2024, the School District's proportion was 0.575741%, which was a decrease of 0.004589% from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2023.

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For the year ended June 30, 2025, the School District recognized OPEB expense of \$110,941.00. At June 30, 2025, 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	\$ 3,217,568.00	\$ 11,847,400.00
Changes of assumptions	7,650,807.00	6,494,909.00
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on OPEB plan investments	-	427,127.00
Changes in proportion and differences between School District contributions and proportionate share of contributions	1,267,893.00	763,659.00
School District contributions subsequent to the measurement date	2,534,573.48	-
Total	\$ 14,670,841.48	\$ 19,533,095.00

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, 2026. 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:	OPEB
2026	\$ (3,111,347.00)
2027	\$ (3,737,429.00)
2028	\$ (1,385,785.00)
2029	\$ 646,064.00
2030	\$ 186,691.00
Thereafter	\$ 4,979.00

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Actuarial Assumptions: The total OPEB liability as of June 30, 2024 was determined by an actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2023 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, 2024:

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	6.75%
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.
- 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.

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The actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2023 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 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, 2023 valuation were based on a review of recent plan experience done concurrently with the June 30, 2023 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%	2.60%
Equities	70.00%	9.10%
Total	100.00%	

* Net of inflation

Discount Rate: In order to measure the total OPEB liability for the School OPEB Fund, a single equivalent interest rate of 3.98% was used as the discount rate, as compared with last year's rate of 3.68%. 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 (3.93% 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 2123.

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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 3.98%, 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 (2.98%) or 1-percentage-point higher (4.98%) than the current discount rate:

	1% Decrease (2.98%)	Current Discount Rate (3.98%)	1% Increase (4.98%)
School District's proportionate share of the Net OPEB liability	\$ 74,233,015.00	\$ 65,613,392.00	\$ 58,344,334.00

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	\$ 56,693,716.00	\$ 65,613,392.00	\$ 76,574,647.00

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 14: 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 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

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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. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. §47-3-63, the employer contributions for certain full-time public school support personnel are funded on behalf of the employer by the State of Georgia. 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 2025. The School District's contractually required contribution rate for the year ended June 30, 2025 was 20.78% of annual School District payroll, of which 20.74% of payroll was required from the School District and 0.04% of payroll was required from the State. For the current fiscal year, employer contributions to the pension plan were \$14,282,602.00 and \$14,156.72 from the School District and the State, respectively.

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 \$16.50, 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.

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 \$209,984.00.

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

At June 30, 2025, the School District reported a liability of \$105,244,896.00 for its proportionate share of the net pension liability for TRS (\$105,274,473.00).

The TRS net pension liability reflected a reduction for support provided to the School District by the State of Georgia for certain public school support personnel. The amount recognized by the School District as its proportionate share of the net pension liability, the related State of Georgia support, and the total portion of the net pension liability that was associated with the School District were as follows:

School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$	105,244,896.00
State of Georgia's proportionate share of the net pension liability associated with the School District		108,079.00
Total	\$	105,352,975.00

The net pension liability for TRS was measured as of June 30, 2024. The total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was based on an actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2023. An expected total pension liability as of June 30, 2024 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, 2024.

At June 30, 2024, the School District's TRS proportion was 0.418725%, which was a decrease of 0.003660% from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2023.

At June 30, 2025, 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 \$866,726.00.

The PSERS net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2024. The total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was based on an actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2023. An expected total pension liability as of June 30, 2024 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, 2024.

For the year ended June 30, 2025, the School District recognized pension expense of \$16,775,090.00 for TRS and \$200,467.00 for PSERS and revenue of (\$20,807.00) for TRS and \$200,467.00 for PSERS. The revenue is support provided by the State of Georgia. For TRS the State of Georgia support is provided only for certain support personnel.

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At June 30, 2025, 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	\$ 11,909,192.00	\$ 314,555.00
Changes of assumptions	7,321,377.00	-
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	-	14,673,409.00
Changes in proportion and differences between School District contributions and proportionate share of contributions	118,628.00	2,021,809.00
School District contributions subsequent to the measurement date	14,282,602.00	-
Total	\$ 33,631,799.00	\$ 17,009,773.00

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, 2026. 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
2026	\$ 1,294,851.00
2027	\$ 12,792,013.00
2028	\$ (6,840,896.00)
2029	\$ (4,906,544.00)

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Actuarial Assumptions: The total pension liability as of June 30, 2024 was determined by an actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2023, 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, 2023 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

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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, 2023 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%	1.50%
Domestic large stocks	46.40%	9.10%
Domestic small stocks	1.10%	13.00%
International developed market stocks	13.60%	9.10%
International emerging market stocks	3.90%	11.10%
Alternative	5.00%	10.60%
Total	100.00%	

* Rates shown are net of inflation

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

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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	\$ 181,147,532.00	\$ 105,244,896.00	\$ 43,285,111.00

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 <http://www.ers.ga.gov/financials>.

Defined Contribution Plan

In 1982, the School District began an employer paid 403(b) annuity plan for the group of employees covered under the Public School Employees Retirement System (PSERS) and Teachers Retirement System (TRS). Recognizing that PSERS and TRS were limited defined contribution and defined benefit plan which did not provide for an adequate retirement for this group of employees, it was the School Board's desire to supplement the retirement of this group.

In fiscal year 2022, for each employee covered under PSERS, the Board began contributing to the plan an amount equal to 7.5 percent of the employee's base pay. For each employee covered under TRS, the School District matched up to 6 percent of the covered employee's contribution.

The School District selected MetLife, Valic, Hartford, ABC Planmember Services, MassMutual/Empower, Aspire, and YOSS as providers of these plans.

The employee becomes vested in the plan upon enrollment. Funds accumulated in the employer paid accounts are only available to the employee upon termination of employment with the Lowndes County Board of Education. Funds are available for financial hardships and loans.

Employer contributions for the current fiscal year and the preceding two fiscal years are as follows:

Fiscal Year	Percentage Contributed	Required Contribution
2025	6 - 7.5%	\$ 2,857,257.11
2024	6 - 7.5%	\$ 2,785,828.41
2023	6 - 7.5%	\$ 2,684,062.89

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
 NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 JUNE 30, 2025

EXHIBIT "G"

NOTE 15: RESTATEMENT OF PRIOR YEAR NET POSITION

During fiscal year 2025, the School District implemented the provisions of GASB Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*, which represents a change in accounting principle. As a result, the School District now recognizes a liability for certain types of accumulated leave that are more likely than not to be used for time off or otherwise paid or settled.

The change was applied retrospectively, resulting in a restatement of beginning net position for governmental activities as of July 1, 2024. The effect of this restatement was a decrease in beginning net position and an increase in the compensated absence liability of \$8,415,498.28.

Net Position, July 1, 2024, as previously reported	\$	187,584,396.90
Change in Accounting Principle - GASB Statement No. 101		<u>(8,415,498.28)</u>
Net Position, July 1, 2024, as restated	\$	<u>179,168,898.62</u>

NOTE 16: TAX ABATEMENTS

Lowndes County enters into property tax abatement agreements with local businesses for the purpose of attracting or retaining businesses within their jurisdictions. The abatements may be granted to any business located within or promising to relocate to Lowndes County.

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, Lowndes County abated property taxes due to the School District that were levied on October 18, 2024 and due on December 30, 2024 totaling \$104,076.27. Included in that amount abated, the following are individual tax abatement agreements that each exceeded 10 percent of the total amount abated:

- A 46 percent property tax abatement to a food manufacturing business. The abatement amounted to \$71,712.59.
- A 10 percent property tax abatement to a manufacturing business. The abatement amounted to \$32,363.69.

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LOWNDES 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 share of the NPL as a percentage of its covered payroll	Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability
2025	0.418725%	\$ 105,244,896.00	\$ 108,079.00	\$ 105,352,975.00	\$ 65,330,191.64	161.10%	80.86%
2024	0.422385%	\$ 124,706,193.00	\$ 132,564.00	\$ 124,838,757.00	\$ 61,651,898.49	202.27%	76.29%
2023	0.434703%	\$ 141,156,467.00	\$ 191,584.00	\$ 141,348,051.00	\$ 58,868,064.63	239.78%	72.85%
2022	0.434456%	\$ 38,424,735.00	\$ 106,486.00	\$ 38,531,221.00	\$ 56,807,484.99	67.64%	92.03%
2021	0.431007%	\$ 104,406,765.00	\$ 322,905.00	\$ 104,729,670.00	\$ 55,834,462.37	186.99%	77.01%
2020	0.438981%	\$ 94,392,785.00	\$ 302,973.00	\$ 94,695,758.00	\$ 53,740,505.29	175.65%	78.56%
2019	0.435737%	\$ 80,882,121.00	\$ 252,816.00	\$ 81,134,937.00	\$ 52,061,341.15	155.36%	80.27%
2018	0.447215%	\$ 83,116,285.00	\$ 288,258.00	\$ 83,404,543.00	\$ 51,541,736.58	161.26%	79.33%
2017	0.445462%	\$ 91,903,778.00	\$ 404,989.00	\$ 92,308,767.00	\$ 49,081,764.17	187.25%	76.06%
2016	0.455729%	\$ 69,380,215.00	\$ 322,292.00	\$ 69,702,507.00	\$ 48,328,246.43	143.56%	81.44%

LOWNDES 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
2025	\$ 14,282,602.00	\$ 14,282,602.00	\$ -	\$ 68,878,387.37	20.74%
2024	\$ 13,030,933.90	\$ 13,030,933.90	\$ -	\$ 65,330,191.64	19.95%
2023	\$ 12,294,067.54	\$ 12,294,067.54	\$ -	\$ 61,651,898.49	19.94%
2022	\$ 11,645,435.26	\$ 11,645,435.26	\$ -	\$ 58,868,064.63	19.78%
2021	\$ 10,781,884.00	\$ 10,781,884.00	\$ -	\$ 56,807,484.99	18.98%
2020	\$ 11,766,982.03	\$ 11,766,982.03	\$ -	\$ 55,834,462.37	21.07%
2019	\$ 11,196,454.40	\$ 11,196,454.40	\$ -	\$ 53,740,505.29	20.83%
2018	\$ 8,724,242.93	\$ 8,724,242.93	\$ -	\$ 52,061,341.15	16.76%
2017	\$ 7,329,501.63	\$ 7,329,501.63	\$ -	\$ 51,541,736.58	14.22%
2016	\$ 6,973,246.93	\$ 6,973,246.93	\$ -	\$ 49,081,764.17	14.21%

LOWNDES 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
2025	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 866,726.00	\$ 866,726.00	\$ 3,036,918.50	N/A	90.02%
2024	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 1,272,175.00	\$ 1,272,175.00	\$ 3,033,799.95	N/A	85.67%
2023	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 1,760,077.00	\$ 1,760,077.00	\$ 3,007,523.99	N/A	81.21%
2022	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 187,771.00	\$ 187,771.00	\$ 3,115,263.70	N/A	98.00%
2021	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 1,341,249.00	\$ 1,341,249.00	\$ 3,342,915.17	N/A	84.45%
2020	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 1,317,071.00	\$ 1,317,071.00	\$ 3,324,036.63	N/A	85.02%
2019	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 1,297,564.00	\$ 1,297,564.00	\$ 3,374,191.90	N/A	85.26%
2018	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 1,155,854.00	\$ 1,155,854.00	\$ 3,347,217.25	N/A	85.69%
2017	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 1,557,188.00	\$ 1,557,188.00	\$ 3,311,113.05	N/A	81.00%
2016	0.00%	\$ -	\$ 995,219.00	\$ 995,219.00	\$ 3,203,849.09	N/A	87.00%

LOWNDES 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
2025	0.575741%	\$ 65,613,392.00	\$ -	\$ 65,613,392.00	\$ 49,816,674.72	131.71%	6.88%
2024	0.580330%	\$ 63,565,937.00	\$ -	\$ 63,565,937.00	\$ 47,666,053.40	133.36%	6.05%
2023	0.571018%	\$ 56,548,951.00	\$ -	\$ 56,548,951.00	\$ 45,676,446.92	123.80%	6.17%
2022	0.567665%	\$ 61,482,816.00	\$ -	\$ 61,482,816.00	\$ 45,134,184.27	136.22%	6.14%
2021	0.565011%	\$ 82,986,957.00	\$ -	\$ 82,986,957.00	\$ 43,724,658.87	189.79%	3.99%
2020	0.572029%	\$ 70,200,231.00	\$ -	\$ 70,200,231.00	\$ 40,930,884.52	171.51%	4.63%
2019	0.575926%	\$ 73,198,427.00	\$ -	\$ 73,198,427.00	\$ 40,289,120.69	181.68%	2.93%
2018	0.578992%	\$ 81,348,143.00	\$ -	\$ 81,348,143.00	\$ 39,004,767.42	208.56%	1.61%

LOWNDES 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
2025	\$ 2,534,573.48	\$ 2,534,573.48	\$ -	\$ 52,878,763.31	4.79%
2024	\$ 2,354,659.00	\$ 2,354,659.00	\$ -	\$ 49,816,674.72	4.73%
2023	\$ 2,231,044.00	\$ 2,231,044.00	\$ -	\$ 47,666,053.40	4.68%
2022	\$ 2,064,659.00	\$ 2,064,659.00	\$ -	\$ 45,676,446.92	4.52%
2021	\$ 2,111,617.00	\$ 2,111,617.00	\$ -	\$ 45,134,184.27	4.68%
2020	\$ 1,910,735.00	\$ 1,910,735.00	\$ -	\$ 43,724,658.87	4.37%
2019	\$ 3,080,772.00	\$ 3,080,772.00	\$ -	\$ 40,930,884.52	7.53%
2018	\$ 2,984,969.00	\$ 2,984,969.00	\$ -	\$ 40,289,120.69	7.41%

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 of 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, 2023 valuation: Medicare health care trend rates were updated.

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, to 3.68% as of June 30, 2023, and to 3.98% as of June 30, 2024.

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

SCHEDULE "7"

GENERAL FUND

SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES

BUDGET AND ACTUAL

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

	NONAPPROPRIATED BUDGETS		ACTUAL AMOUNTS	VARIANCE OVER/UNDER
	ORIGINAL (1)	FINAL (1)		
REVENUES				
Property Taxes	\$ 35,742,709.00	\$ 35,742,709.00	\$ 42,226,962.90	\$ 6,484,253.90
Sales Taxes	668,000.00	668,000.00	865,862.93	197,862.93
State Funds	94,063,227.00	95,150,705.00	98,992,926.38	3,842,221.38
Federal Funds	12,997,508.00	13,567,632.00	14,335,294.90	767,662.90
Charges for Services	1,920,082.00	1,920,082.00	1,282,013.97	(638,068.03)
Investment Earnings	3,237,221.00	3,237,221.00	3,081,867.51	(155,353.49)
Miscellaneous	427,700.00	427,700.00	5,239,449.22	4,811,749.22
Total Revenues	<u>149,056,447.00</u>	<u>150,714,049.00</u>	<u>166,024,377.81</u>	<u>15,310,328.81</u>
EXPENDITURES				
Current				
Instruction	89,899,837.00	90,439,135.00	90,859,535.65	(420,400.65)
Support Services				
Pupil Services	5,251,424.00	5,429,535.00	6,810,913.15	(1,381,378.15)
Improvement of Instructional Services	5,866,136.00	5,786,951.00	6,526,325.09	(739,374.09)
Educational Media Services	1,854,740.00	1,854,740.00	1,929,488.09	(74,748.09)
General Administration	1,720,146.00	1,680,345.00	1,525,950.54	154,394.46
School Administration	6,162,837.00	6,162,887.00	6,681,542.58	(518,655.58)
Business Administration	2,458,015.00	2,458,015.00	2,501,489.50	(43,474.50)
Maintenance and Operation of Plant	9,806,748.00	10,173,112.00	11,904,731.83	(1,731,619.83)
Student Transportation Services	9,130,483.00	9,177,414.00	7,622,948.45	1,554,465.55
Central Support Services	2,062,865.00	2,042,265.00	1,829,260.16	213,004.84
Other Support Services	23,500.00	24,655.00	1,932,563.73	(1,907,908.73)
Enterprise Operation	-	-	839,519.20	(839,519.20)
Community Services	-	-	9,962.83	(9,962.83)
Food Services Operation	7,311,215.00	7,311,215.00	7,374,778.57	(63,563.57)
Capital Outlay	385,000.00	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	<u>141,932,946.00</u>	<u>142,540,269.00</u>	<u>148,349,009.37</u>	<u>(5,808,740.37)</u>
Excess of Revenues over (under) Expenditures	<u>7,123,501.00</u>	<u>8,173,780.00</u>	<u>17,675,368.44</u>	<u>9,501,588.44</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Other Sources	228,296.00	246,273.00	-	(246,273.00)
Other Uses	(16,228,296.00)	(16,246,273.00)	(34,000,000.00)	(17,753,727.00)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	<u>(16,000,000.00)</u>	<u>(16,000,000.00)</u>	<u>(34,000,000.00)</u>	<u>(18,000,000.00)</u>
Net Change in Fund Balances	(8,876,499.00)	(7,826,220.00)	(16,324,631.56)	(8,498,411.56)
Fund Balances - Beginning	<u>66,024,632.04</u>	<u>66,006,305.40</u>	<u>66,458,712.80</u>	<u>452,407.40</u>
Fund Balances - Ending	<u>\$ 57,148,133.04</u>	<u>\$ 58,180,085.40</u>	<u>\$ 50,134,081.24</u>	<u>\$ (8,046,004.16)</u>

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 \$3,299,664.32 and \$3,104,915.64, 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.

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
 SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
 YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

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	255GA324N1199	\$ 1,419,387.25
National School Lunch Program	10.555	255GA324N1199	5,985,003.98
Total Child Nutrition Cluster			<u>7,404,391.23</u>
Other Programs			
Pass-Through From Georgia Department of Education			
Food Services			
Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program	10.185	AM23CPLFS000C018	12,546.40
State Administrative Expenses for Child Nutrition	10.560	255GA904N2533	24,863.76
Total Other Programs			<u>37,410.16</u>
Total U.S. Department of Agriculture			<u>7,441,801.39</u>
Education, U.S. Department of			
Direct			
Impact Aid			
Payments for Federally Connected Children - Section 7003	84.041B		<u>295,082.00</u>
Education Stabilization Fund			
Pass-Through From Georgia Department of Education			
COVID-19 - American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School			
Emergency Relief Fund	84.425U	S425U210012	413,305.53
COVID-19 - American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School			
Emergency Relief Fund - Homeless Children and Youth	84.425W	S425W210011	39,215.28
Total Education Stabilization Fund			<u>452,520.81</u>
Special Education Cluster			
Pass-Through From Georgia Department of Education			
Special Education			
Grants to States	84.027A	H027A230073	369,790.00
Grants to States	84.027A	H027A240073	2,302,691.76
Preschool Grants	84.173A	H173A240081	96,739.00
Total Special Education Cluster			<u>2,769,220.76</u>
Other Programs			
Pass-Through From Georgia Department of Education			
Career and Technical Education - Basic Grants to States	84.048A	V048A240010	128,994.00
Education for Homeless Children and Youth	84.196A	S196A240011	48,007.00
English Language Acquisition State Grants	84.365A	S365A230010	6,084.00
English Language Acquisition State Grants	84.365A	T365A240010	22,524.80
Migrant Education State Grant Program	84.011A	S011A230011	79,236.00
Migrant Education State Grant Program	84.011A	S011A240011	71,271.56
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program	84.424F	S424F220011	82,737.46
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants	84.367A	S367A230001	42,394.00
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants	84.367A	S367A240001	660,223.00
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010A	S010A230010	388,943.00
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010A	S010A240010	2,955,087.63
Total Other Programs			<u>4,485,502.45</u>
Total U.S. Department of Education			<u>8,002,326.02</u>

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
 SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
 YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

SCHEDULE "8"

FUNDING AGENCY PROGRAM/GRANT	ASSISTANCE LISTING NUMBER	PASS- THROUGH ENTITY ID NUMBER	EXPENDITURES IN PERIOD
Defense, U.S. Department of Direct Department of the Air Force R.O.T.C. Program	12. UNKNOWN		103,396.22
Total Expenditures of Federal Awards			\$ 15,547,523.63

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 Lowndes County Board of Education (the "Board") under programs of the federal government for the year ended June 30, 2025. 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. Transfers Between Programs

Funds totaling \$246,273.00 were transferred from the Student Support and Academic Enrichment program (ALN 84.424A) and expended in the Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants program (ALN 84.367) during Fiscal Year 2025.

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHEDULE OF STATE REVENUE
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

SCHEDULE "9"

AGENCY/FUNDING	GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES		TOTAL
	GENERAL FUND	CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND	
GRANTS			
Bright From the Start:			
Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning			
Pre-Kindergarten Program	\$ 2,065,339.75	\$ -	\$ 2,065,339.75
Education, Georgia Department of			
Quality Basic Education			
Direct Instructional Cost			
Kindergarten Program	4,644,061.00	-	4,644,061.00
Kindergarten Program - Early Intervention Program	174,611.00	-	174,611.00
Primary Grades (1-3) Program	9,976,023.00	-	9,976,023.00
Primary Grades - Early Intervention (1-3) Program	1,371,996.00	-	1,371,996.00
Upper Elementary Grades (4-5) Program	4,709,415.00	-	4,709,415.00
Upper Elementary Grades - Early Intervention (4-5) Program	760,316.00	-	760,316.00
Middle School (6-8) Program	8,272,187.00	-	8,272,187.00
High School General Education (9-12) Program	7,289,411.00	-	7,289,411.00
Vocational Laboratory (9-12) Program	2,353,468.00	-	2,353,468.00
Students with Disabilities	17,573,020.00	-	17,573,020.00
Gifted Student - Category VI	3,331,820.00	-	3,331,820.00
Remedial Education Program	1,954,061.00	-	1,954,061.00
Alternative Education Program	601,611.00	-	601,611.00
English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)	593,424.00	-	593,424.00
Media Center Program	1,567,500.00	-	1,567,500.00
20 Days Additional Instruction	464,678.00	-	464,678.00
Staff and Professional Development	279,269.00	-	279,269.00
Principal Staff and Professional Development	3,795.00	-	3,795.00
Indirect Cost			
Central Administration	2,082,214.00	-	2,082,214.00
School Administration	2,778,462.00	-	2,778,462.00
Facility Maintenance and Operations	2,744,394.00	-	2,744,394.00
Categorical Grants			
Pupil Transportation			
Regular	2,965,521.00	-	2,965,521.00
Nursing Services	249,791.00	-	249,791.00
Military Counselors	49,493.00	-	49,493.00
Education Equalization Funding Grant	16,256,503.00	-	16,256,503.00
Other State Programs			
Dyslexia Screener State Grant	31,768.00	-	31,768.00
Food Services	221,210.62	-	221,210.62
GNETS State Grant	474,185.41	-	474,185.41
Heavy Equipment Grant GSFIC ST Fund	243,399.99	-	243,399.99
Hygiene Products	8,476.37	-	8,476.37
Math and Science Supplements	63,430.00	-	63,430.00
Preschool Disability Services	216,736.00	-	216,736.00
Pupil Transportation - State Bonds	88,110.00	-	88,110.00
State Bus Appropriation GSFIC St Fund	88,110.00	-	88,110.00
State Custodian Supplement	35,000.00	-	35,000.00
State School Security Grant	518,364.00	-	518,364.00
Teachers Retirement	14,156.72	-	14,156.72
Vocational Education	157,696.00	-	157,696.00
Vocational Supervisors	28,884.00	-	28,884.00
Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission			
Reimbursement on Construction Projects	-	4,836,650.40	4,836,650.40
Office of the State Treasurer			
Public School Employees Retirement	209,984.00	-	209,984.00
Community Health, Georgia Department of			
Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB)	1,481,031.52	-	1,481,031.52
	<u>\$ 98,992,926.38</u>	<u>\$ 4,836,650.40</u>	<u>\$ 103,829,576.78</u>

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
 SCHEDULE OF APPROVED LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX PROJECTS
 YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

SCHEDULE "10"

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>ORIGINAL ESTIMATED COST (1)</u>	<u>CURRENT ESTIMATED COSTS (2)</u>	<u>ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE</u>
SPLOST VI			
(a) Planning and construction of new facilities, including elementary school(s), middle school(s) and high school(s);	\$ 49,610,000.00	\$ 49,610,000.00	June 2027
(b) the addition, renovation, repair and improvement to existing school buildings, facilities, and grounds, including, but not limited to, all elementary schools, middle schools and high school(s);	8,501,000.00	18,088,379.12	June 2027
(c) equipping and furnishing system-wide new construction, additions, and renovations;	450,000.00	450,000.00	June 2027
(d) acquisition of school vehicles, including but not limited to, school buses, maintenance vehicles and equipment;	5,725,000.00	5,725,000.00	June 2027
(e) system-wide technology improvements;	11,500,000.00	11,500,000.00	June 2027
(f) acquisition of security and safety systems, equipment and/or fencing;	2,582,000.00	2,582,000.00	June 2027
(g) textbooks (including e-books) and related instructional software, band and other musical instruments, vocational equipment and physical education and athletic equipment; and	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	June 2027
(h) renovations and modifications of athletic facilities, acquisition of any property necessary and desirable for new construction, and expansion and/or improvement of existing facilities, both real and personal	<u>1,182,000.00</u>	<u>4,456,296.32</u>	June 2027
Total	<u>\$ 83,550,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 96,411,675.44</u>	

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
 SCHEDULE OF APPROVED LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX PROJECTS
 YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

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 VI				-
(a) Planning and construction of new facilities, including elementary school(s), middle school(s) and high school(s);	\$ 23,624,270.12	\$ 3,727,321.52	\$ -	\$ -
(b) the addition, renovation, repair and improvement to existing school buildings, facilities, and grounds, including, but not limited to, all elementary schools, middle schools and high school(s);	10,842,175.75	7,246,203.37	-	-
(c) equipping and furnishing system-wide new construction, additions, and renovations;	32,043.55	46,563.85	-	-
(d) acquisition of school vehicles, including but not limited to, school buses, maintenance vehicles and equipment;	3,099,528.04	923,008.83	-	-
(e) system-wide technology improvements;	1,206,089.03	1,388,880.08	-	-
(f) acquisition of security and safety systems, equipment and/or fencing;	78,060.86	153,815.60	-	-
(g) textbooks (including e-books) and related instructional software, band and other musical instruments, vocational equipment and physical education and athletic equipment; and	1,600,911.44	1,496,882.73	-	-
(h) renovations and modifications of athletic facilities, acquisition of any property necessary and desirable for new construction, and expansion and/or improvement of existing facilities, both real and personal	<u>3,212,945.26</u>	<u>1,243,351.06</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>\$ 43,696,024.05</u>	<u>\$ 16,226,027.04</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 Lowndes 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) In addition to the expenditures shown above, the School District has incurred principal and interest to provide advance funding as follows:

	<u>Energy Savings Contract//Revenue Bond</u>	
	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Prior Years	\$ 1,844,000.00	\$ 1,242,881.82
Current Year	<u>555,000.00</u>	<u>213,100.00</u>
Total	<u>\$ 2,399,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 1,455,981.82</u>

Section II

Compliance and Internal Control Reports



**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
Mrs. Sandra Wilcher, Superintendent and Members of the
Lowndes County Board of Education

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of the Lowndes County Board of Education (School District) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the School District's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated March 2, 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.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. *A material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the School District's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. *A significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

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

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the 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*.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg S. Griffin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

March 2, 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
Mrs. Sandra Wilcher, Superintendent and Members of the
Lowndes County Board of Education

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We have audited the Lowndes 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, 2025. 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*.

In our opinion, the School District complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2025.

Basis for Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

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

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

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.

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 significant deficiency.

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. *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. We consider the deficiency in internal control over compliance described in the accompanying *Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs* in finding FA 2025-001 to be a significant deficiency.

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,



Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

March 2, 2026

Section III

Auditee's Response to Prior Year Findings and Questioned Costs

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
AUDITEE'S RESPONSE
SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

PRIOR YEAR FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS

No matters were reported.

PRIOR YEAR FEDERAL AWARD FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

No matters were reported.

Section IV

Findings and Questioned Costs

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
 SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
 YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

I SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS

Financial Statements

Type of auditor's report issued:	
Governmental Activities and Each Major Fund	Unmodified
Internal control over financial reporting:	
▪ Material weakness(es) identified?	No
▪ Significant deficiency(ies) identified?	None Reported
Noncompliance material to financial statements noted:	No

Federal Awards

Internal control over major programs:	
▪ Material weakness(es) identified?	No
▪ Significant deficiency(ies) identified?	Yes

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

Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with 2 CFR 200.516(a)?	Yes
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Identification of major programs:

<u>Assistance Listing Number</u>	<u>Assistance Listing Program or Cluster Title</u>
84.010	Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies
84.027, 84.173	Special Education Cluster

Dollar threshold used to distinguish between Type A and Type B programs:	\$750,000.00
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Auditee qualified as low-risk auditee?	Yes
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II FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS

No matters were reported.

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

III FEDERAL AWARD FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

FA 2025-001 Strengthen Controls over Employee Compensation

Compliance Requirement:	Allowable Costs/Cost Principles
Internal Control Impact:	Significant Deficiency
Compliance Impact:	Nonmaterial Noncompliance
Federal Awarding Agency:	U.S. Department of Education
Pass-Through Entity:	Georgia Department of Education
AL Numbers and Titles:	84.027 – Special Education Grants to States 84.173 – Special Education Preschool Grants
Federal Award Numbers:	H027A230073 (Year: 2024), H027A240073 (Year: 2025), H173A240081 (Year: 2025)
Questioned Costs:	\$1,283

Description:

The policies and procedures of the School District were insufficient to provide adequate internal controls over the employee compensation process as it relates to the Special Education Cluster.

Background:

The Special Education Cluster (SEC), which is comprised of the Special Education Grants to States (IDEA, Part B) and Special Education Preschool Grants (IDEA Preschool) programs, was authorized under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Special Education Cluster funding is available to ensure that all children with disabilities have available to them a free appropriate public education that emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs and prepares them for further education, employment, and independent living; ensure that the rights of children with disabilities and their parents are protected; assist states, localities, educational service agencies, and federal agencies to provide for the education of all children with disabilities; and assess and ensure the effectiveness of efforts to educate children with disabilities.

SEC 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. SEC funds totaling \$2,769,220.76 were expended and reported on the Lowndes County Board of Education’s Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (SEFA) for fiscal year 2025.

Criteria:

As a recipient of federal awards, the School District is required to establish, document, 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.

Additionally, 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

**LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

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 recipient or subrecipient... (g) Be adequately documented...”

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 of 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 recipient or subrecipient consistently applied to both Federal and non-Federal activities; (2) Follows an appointment made in accordance with recipient’s or subrecipient’s laws, rules, or written policies and meets the requirements of Federal statute, where applicable; and (3) Is determined and supported as provided in paragraph (g)..., [as follows:] (g) 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 that provides reasonable assurance that the charges are accurate, allowable, and properly allocated; (ii) Be incorporated into the official records of the recipient or subrecipient...”

Condition:

A sample of 16 employees was randomly selected for testing using a non-statistical sampling approach. These employees were reviewed to determine if internal controls were properly functioning, and applicable compliance requirements were met. The following deficiencies were noted:

- For two employees, the amount paid did not agree to supporting documentation and resulted in underpayments totaling \$4,378.
- For one employee, the amount paid did not agree to board-approved salary scales and resulted in the overpayment of salary and benefit amounts by a total of \$1,283.

Questioned Costs:

Upon testing a sample of \$195,182 in personnel services expenditures, known questioned costs of \$1,283 were identified for payroll charges exceeding documented federal program activities, including \$743 in salaries and \$540 in associated benefits. Using the total personnel services expenditure population of \$1,806,992 (excluding benefits payments), we project the likely questioned costs to be approximately \$6,882.

Cause:

The identified variances resulted from isolated payroll processing errors during position changes and pay scale updates for specific positions resulting in data-entry and reconciliation discrepancies.

Effect:

The School District is not in compliance with the Uniform Guidance and GaDOE guidance. Failure to pay employees associated with Special Education Cluster the appropriate amount and/or maintain documentation supporting these payments could result in the expenditure of funds for unallowable purposes. This may also expose the School District to unnecessary financial strains and shortages within the Special Education Cluster fund as ED or GaDOE may require the School District to return funds associated with unallowable or improperly documented expenditures.

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

Recommendation:

The School District should evaluate their internal control processes related to the documentation and review of employee compensation payments. Where vulnerable, the School District should develop and/or modify its policies and procedures to ensure that Special Education Cluster employees are paid appropriately. Furthermore, management should develop and implement a monitoring process to ensure that these procedures are functioning properly.

Views of Responsible Officials:

We concur with this finding.

Section V

Management's Corrective Action

LOWNDES COUNTY SCHOOLS

Home of the Vikings

1592 Norman Drive • Valdosta, Georgia 31601 • 229 245-2250 • FAX 229 245-2255

SUPERINTENDENT

Sandra Wilcher

Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Tenry Berry

Assistant Superintendent

Katie Chappuis

Assistant Superintendent

LeAnne McCall

BOARD MEMBERS

Chris Buescher

Mike Davis

Melanie Hasty

Robert McGeehan

Erin Price

Fred Wetherington

Jason Wisenbaker

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLANS - FEDERAL AWARD FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

FA 2025-001 Strengthen Controls over Employee Compensation

Compliance Requirement:	Allowable Costs/Cost Principles
Internal Control Impact:	Significant Deficiency
Compliance Impact:	Nonmaterial Noncompliance
Federal Awarding Agency:	U.S. Department of Education
Pass-Through Entity:	Georgia Department of Education
Assistance Listing Number and Title:	84.027 – Special Education Cluster Grant to States 84.173 – Special Education Cluster Preschool Grants
Federal Award Number:	H027A230073 (Year: 2024), H027A240073 (Year: 2025), H173A240081 (Year: 2025)
Questioned Costs:	\$1,283

Description:

The policies and procedures of the School District were insufficient to provide adequate internal controls over the employee compensation process as it relates to the Special Education Cluster.

Corrective Action Plans:

The District concurs with the finding and is committed to strengthening internal controls. While the identified discrepancies were isolated, we recognize the need for enhanced reconciliation during personnel transitions. The Human Resources and Finance departments will enhance our review process. This pre-payroll validation step will ensure that all salary adjustments and position changes align with Board authorized pay documentation prior to disbursement.

Estimated Completion Date: 3/31/2026

Contact Person: Julie Wiley, Chief Financial Officer

Telephone: 229-316-1878

Email: juliewiley@lowndes.k12.ga.us

Signature: _____

Julie Wiley

Title: _____

Chief Financial Officer