

STATE OF FLORIDA AUDITOR GENERAL

Financial and Federal Single Audit

Report No. 2026-164
March 2026

**HARDEE COUNTY
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

For the Fiscal Year Ended
June 30, 2025



Sherrill F. Norman, CPA
Auditor General

Board Members and Superintendent

During the 2024-25 fiscal year, Sonja Bennett served as Superintendent of the Hardee County Schools from November 19, 2024, Bob Shayman served as Superintendent before that date, and the following individuals served as School Board Members:

	<u>District No.</u>
Dr. Stacy Sharp	1
Andrew Smith from 11-19-24	2
Mildred Smith through 11-18-24	2
Claire Cornell, Vice Chair from 11-19-24, Chair through 11-18-24	3
Marie Dasher	4
Mark Gilliard, Chair from 11-19-24, Vice Chair through 11-18-24	5

The Auditor General conducts audits of governmental entities to provide the Legislature, Florida's citizens, public entity management, and other stakeholders unbiased, timely, and relevant information for use in promoting government accountability and stewardship and improving government operations.

The team leader was Pakeishia L. Johnson, and the audit was supervised by Mark A. Arroyo, CPA.

Please address inquiries regarding this report to Edward A. Waller, CPA, Audit Manager, by e-mail at tedwaller@aud.state.fl.us or by telephone at (850) 412-2887.

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SUMMARY

SUMMARY OF REPORT ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Our audit disclosed that the basic financial statements of the Hardee County District School Board (District) were presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with prescribed financial reporting standards.

SUMMARY OF REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL AND COMPLIANCE

Our audit did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses.

The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

SUMMARY OF REPORT ON FEDERAL AWARDS

We audited the District's compliance with applicable Federal awards requirements. The Title I Program and Education Stabilization Fund were audited as major Federal programs. The results of our audit indicated that the District materially complied with the requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major Federal programs except that the District did not materially comply with the Eligibility requirement for the Title I Program. The noncompliance and control deficiency finding is summarized below.

Federal Award Finding No. 2025-001: The District under allocated Title I Program funding to three schools by a total of \$220,333, resulting in questioned costs of that amount.

AUDIT OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE

Our audit objectives were to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole were free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that included our opinions. Our audit objectives were also to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with applicable Federal awards requirements occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and to express an opinion on the District's compliance based on our audit. In doing so, we:

- Exercised professional judgment and maintained professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identified and assessed the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and material noncompliance with Federal awards requirements, whether due to fraud or error, and designed and performed audit procedures responsive to those risks.
- Obtained 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 District's internal control.
- Evaluated the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluated the overall presentation of the financial statements and accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards.

- Concluded whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the District's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.
- Examined various transactions to determine whether they were executed, in both manner and substance, in accordance with governing provisions of laws, rules, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements.

AUDIT METHODOLOGY

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; applicable standards contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*.



Sherrill F. Norman, CPA
Auditor General

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The President of the Senate, the Speaker of the
House of Representatives, and the
Legislative Auditing Committee

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the discretely presented component unit, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Hardee County District School Board, as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, based on our audit and the reports of the other auditors, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the discretely presented component unit, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Hardee County District School Board, as of June 30, 2025, and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the fiscal year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We did not audit the financial statements of the school internal funds, which represent 21 percent, 0 percent, 36 percent, 14 percent, and 13 percent, respectively, of the assets, liabilities, net position and fund balance, additions and revenues, and deductions and expenditures of the aggregate remaining fund information as of June 30, 2025. In addition, we did not audit the financial statements of the discretely presented component unit, which represent 100 percent of the transactions and account balances of the discretely presented component unit columns as of June 30, 2025. The financial statements of the school internal funds and the discretely presented component unit were audited by other auditors whose reports have been furnished to us, and our opinions, insofar as they relate to the amounts included for the financial statements of the school internal funds and the discretely presented component unit, are based solely on the reports of the other auditors.

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 (*Government Auditing Standards*). 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 District, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

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

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the District's ability to continue as a going concern for 12 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 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 District's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

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

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that **MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**, the **Budgetary Comparison Schedule – General and Major Special Revenue Funds**, **Schedule of Changes in the District's Total OPEB Liability and Related Ratios**, **Schedule of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability – Florida Retirement System Pension Plan**, **Schedule of District Contributions – Florida Retirement System Pension Plan**, **Schedule of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability – Health Insurance Subsidy Pension Plan**, **Schedule of District Contributions – Health Insurance Subsidy Pension Plan**, and **Notes to Required Supplementary Information** 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 District's basic financial statements. The accompanying **SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS**, as required by Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*, is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS. In our

opinion, the accompanying **SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS** is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 30, 2026, on our consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, rules, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters included under the heading **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 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 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 District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Respectfully submitted,



Sherrill F. Norman, CPA
Tallahassee, Florida
March 30, 2026

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The management of the Hardee County District School Board has prepared the following discussion and analysis to provide an overview of the District's financial activities for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025. The information contained in the Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) is intended to highlight significant transactions, events, and conditions and should be considered in conjunction with the District's financial statements and notes to financial statements found immediately following the MD&A.

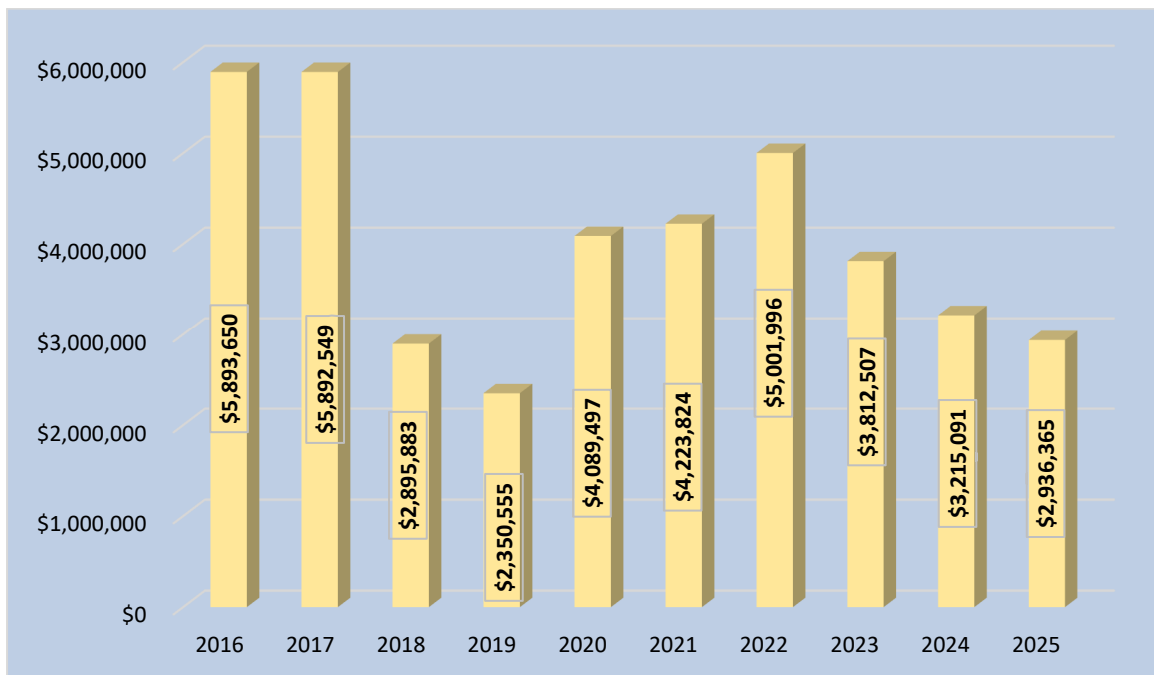
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Key financial highlights for the 2024-25 fiscal year are as follows:

- In total, net position decreased \$127,049 from the 2023-24 fiscal year to \$35,612,472.
- At June 30, 2025, the fund balance of the General Fund totals \$6,743,924 which is \$1,432,171 less than the prior fiscal year balance. During the 2024-25 fiscal year, the number of unweighted full-time equivalent students excluding Family Empowerment Scholarship, in District traditional schools and in the District's virtual instruction program decreased by 225 when compared to the prior school year, reducing the District's Florida Education Finance Program funding. In October 2024, the District sent \$517,000 to the Florida School Health Insurance Program fund as a supplemental premium contribution to cover high claims expenses.
- The General Fund assigned and unassigned fund balances total \$4,043,777 or 9.5 percent of total General Fund revenues.

The following chart shows General Fund's Unassigned Fund Balance for the past 10 years:

General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance at June 30



OVERVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The basic financial statements consist of three components: (1) government-wide financial statements; (2) fund financial statements; and (3) notes to financial statements. This report also includes supplementary information intended to furnish additional details to support the basic financial statements.

Government-Wide Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements provide both short-term and long-term information about the District's overall financial condition in a manner similar to those of a private-sector business. The statements include a statement of net position and a statement of activities that are designed to provide consolidated financial information about the governmental activities of the District presented on the accrual basis of accounting. The statement of net position provides information about the District's financial position, its assets, liabilities, and deferred inflows/outflows of resources, using an economic resources measurement focus. Assets plus deferred outflows of resources, less liabilities and deferred inflows of resources, equals net position, which is a measure of the District's financial health. The statement of activities presents information about the change in the District's net position, the results of operations, during the fiscal year. An increase or decrease in net position is an indication of whether the District's financial health is improving or deteriorating.

The government-wide statements present the District's activities in the following categories:

- Governmental activities – This represents most of the District's services, including its educational programs such as basic, vocational, adult, and exceptional education. Support functions such as transportation and administration are also included. Local property taxes and the State's education finance program provide most of the resources that support these activities.
- Component unit – The District presents one separate legal entity in this report. The Hardee County Education Foundation, Inc. is a legally separate organization and component unit that is included in this report because it meets the criteria for inclusion provided by generally accepted accounting principles. Financial information for the component unit is reported separately from the financial information presented for the primary government.

Fund Financial Statements

Fund financial statements are one of the components of the basic financial statements. A fund is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. The District uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements and prudent fiscal management. Certain funds are established by law while others are created by legal agreements, such as bond covenants. Fund financial statements provide more detailed information about the District's financial activities, focusing on its most significant or "major" funds rather than fund types. This is in contrast to the entitywide perspective contained in the government-wide statements. All of the District's funds may be classified within one of the broad categories discussed below.

Governmental Funds: Governmental funds are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. However, unlike the government-wide financial statements, governmental fund financial statements focus on near-term inflows and outflows of spendable resources, as well as on balances of spendable resources available

at the end of the fiscal year. Such information may be useful in assessing a government's near-term financing requirements.

Because the focus of governmental funds is narrower than that of the government-wide financial statements, it is useful to compare the information presented for governmental funds with similar information presented for governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. By doing so, readers may better understand the long-term impact of the government's near-term financing decisions. Both the governmental funds balance sheet and the governmental funds statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances provide a reconciliation to facilitate this comparison between governmental funds and governmental activities.

The governmental funds balance sheet and statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances provide detailed information about the District's most significant funds. The District's major funds are the General Fund, Special Revenue – Food Service Fund, Special Revenue – Other Fund, Special Revenue – Federal Education Stabilization Fund, and Capital Projects – Local Capital Improvement Fund. Data from the other governmental funds are combined into a single, aggregated presentation.

The District adopts an annual appropriated budget for its governmental funds. A budgetary comparison schedule has been provided for the General and major Special Revenue Funds to demonstrate compliance with the budget.

Proprietary Funds: Proprietary funds may be established to account for activities in which a fee is charged for services. Internal service funds are used to report activities that provide goods and services to support the District's other programs and functions through user charges. The District uses the internal service fund to account for Self-Insurance/Florida School Health Insurance Program (FSHIP). Since these services predominantly benefit governmental rather than business-type functions, the internal service fund has been included within governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements.

Fiduciary Funds: Fiduciary funds are used to report assets held in a trustee or fiduciary capacity for the benefit of external parties, such as scholarship funds. Fiduciary funds are not reflected in the government-wide statements because the resources are not available to support the District's own programs. In its fiduciary capacity, the District is responsible for ensuring that the assets reported in these funds are used only for their intended purposes.

The District uses the private-purpose trust fund to account for scholarship funds established by private donors.

Notes to Financial Statements

The notes provide additional information that is essential for a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and fund financial statements.

Other Information

In addition to the basic financial statements and accompanying notes, this report also presents required supplementary information concerning the District's total other postemployment benefits (OPEB) and net pension liabilities.

GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

As noted earlier, net position over time may serve as a useful indicator of a government's financial health. The following is a summary of the District's net position as of June 30, 2025, compared to net position as of June 30, 2024:

Net Position, End of Year

	Governmental Activities		Increase
	6-30-25	6-30-24	(Decrease)
Current and Other Assets	\$ 17,376,129	\$ 17,772,709	\$ (396,580)
Capital Assets	53,974,793	54,577,804	(603,011)
Total Assets	71,350,922	72,350,513	(999,591)
Deferred Outflows of Resources	9,558,703	10,086,086	(527,383)
Long-Term Liabilities	36,810,477	41,058,446	(4,247,969)
Other Liabilities	2,547,752	1,880,838	666,914
Total Liabilities	39,358,229	42,939,284	(3,581,055)
Deferred Inflows of Resources	5,938,924	3,757,794	2,181,130
Net Position:			
Net Investment in Capital Assets	52,469,793	52,972,804	(503,011)
Restricted	10,557,699	9,755,309	802,390
Unrestricted (Deficit)	(27,415,020)	(26,988,592)	(426,428)
Total Net Position	\$ 35,612,472	\$ 35,739,521	\$ (127,049)

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

The restricted portion of the District's net position represents resources that are subject to external restrictions on how they may be used. Net position is restricted for State required carryover programs, food service, capital projects, etc. The deficit unrestricted net position was primarily the result of accruing the District's proportionate share of net pension liability and related pension amounts for the Florida Retirement System (FRS) pension plan and Health Insurance Subsidy (HIS) pension plan.

The key elements of the changes in the District's net position for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2025, and June 30, 2024, are as follows:

- Long-term liabilities decreased because the District's share of the FRS pension plan net pension liability decreased by \$1,921,233, the District's share of the HIS pension plan net pension liability decreased by \$1,241,308, and the liability for compensated absences decreased by \$1,078,115.
- Other liabilities increased because a liability of \$1,154,500 was determined by the self-insurance administrator to cover estimated incurred but not reported (IBNR) insurance claims payable at June 30, 2025, an increase of \$733,500 from the prior year.

- Deferred inflows of resources for the FRS pension plan increased by \$1,779,070 due to changes in investments and changes in proportion. Deferred inflows of resources for the HIS pension plan increased by \$596,979 due to changes in proportion and changes in assumptions.

The following is a summary of the District's operating results for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, compared to operating results for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024:

Operating Results for the Fiscal Year Ended

	Governmental Activities		Increase (Decrease)
	6-30-25	6-30-24	
Program Revenues:			
Charges for Services	\$ 212,800	\$ 192,415	\$ 20,385
Operating Grants and Contributions	3,448,329	3,479,111	(30,782)
Capital Grants and Contributions	195,741	161,104	34,637
General Revenues:			
Property Taxes, Levied for Operational Purposes	11,178,851	10,586,620	592,231
Property Taxes, Levied for Capital Projects	4,431,323	4,066,613	364,710
Florida Education Finance Program	23,720,078	24,853,232	(1,133,154)
Other Federal Sources	7,738,914	15,535,578	(7,796,664)
Other State Sources	5,926,240	5,822,892	103,348
Unrestricted Investment Earnings	57,685	445,786	(388,101)
Miscellaneous	3,125,215	3,553,303	(428,088)
Total Revenues	60,035,176	68,696,654	(8,661,478)
Functions/Program Expenses:			
Instruction	28,721,241	35,855,747	(7,134,506)
Student Support Services	3,868,860	4,399,860	(531,000)
Instructional Media Services	916,929	1,065,900	(148,971)
Instruction and Curriculum Development Services	977,373	1,231,658	(254,285)
Instructional Staff Training Services	665,648	1,242,892	(577,244)
Instruction-Related Technology	1,665,361	1,890,503	(225,142)
Board	481,522	530,971	(49,449)
General Administration	729,478	1,020,626	(291,148)
School Administration	2,506,216	2,864,053	(357,837)
Facilities Acquisition and Construction	961,796	421,791	540,005
Fiscal Services	513,800	583,384	(69,584)
Food Services	3,446,353	3,777,771	(331,418)
Central Services	1,461,862	588,602	873,260
Student Transportation Services	2,639,244	2,948,882	(309,638)
Operation of Plant	4,762,850	5,235,668	(472,818)
Maintenance of Plant	2,496,745	2,803,640	(306,895)
Administrative Technology Services	414,403	425,707	(11,304)
Community Services	1,593,080	1,684,753	(91,673)
Unallocated Interest on Long-Term Debt	75,834	80,628	(4,794)
Unallocated Depreciation Expense	1,263,630	1,304,707	(41,077)
Total Functions/Program Expenses	60,162,225	69,957,743	(9,795,518)
Change in Net Position	(127,049)	(1,261,089)	1,134,040
Net Position - Beginning	35,739,521	37,000,610	(1,261,089)
Net Position - Ending	\$ 35,612,472	\$ 35,739,521	\$ (127,049)

The largest revenue source is the State of Florida (49 percent). Revenues from State sources for current operations are primarily received through the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) funding formula. The FEFP funding formula utilizes student enrollment data and is designed to maintain equity

in funding across all Florida school districts, taking into consideration the District’s funding ability based on the local property tax base.

Other Federal sources decreased by almost \$7.8 million due to the completion of Special Revenue – Federal Education Stabilization Fund grants, the completion of the Future Florida Critical Workforce Needs grant and reduced funding for Title I grants. As a result, expenditures in projects funded by these grants also decreased.

Instruction expenses decreased by \$7,134,506, or 19.9 percent, from the previous fiscal year due mainly to decreases in Federal Education Stabilization Funds, critical workforce grant funds, and pension expense.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE DISTRICT’S FUNDS

Governmental Funds

The focus of the District’s governmental funds is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows, and balances of spendable resources. Such information is useful in assessing the District’s financing requirements. Specifically, unassigned fund balance may serve as a useful measure of a government’s net resources available for discretionary use as it represents the portion of fund balance that has not been limited to a particular purpose by an external party, the District, or a group or individual delegated authority by the Board to assign resources for particular purposes.

As of June 30, 2025, the District’s governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$15,038,252 a decrease of \$674,827 in comparison with the prior year. Of the total ending fund balance \$2,936,365, or 20 percent, is unassigned fund balance, which is available for spending at the government’s discretion; \$500,500 is nonspendable; \$10,493,975 is restricted; and \$1,107,412 is assigned.

Fund Balances

	Unassigned Fund Balance	Nonspendable, Restricted, and Assigned Fund Balance	Total Fund Balance	Change in Total Fund Balance
Major Governmental Funds:				
General	\$ 2,936,365	\$ 3,807,559	\$ 6,743,924	\$ (1,432,171)
Special Revenue - Food Service	-	1,890,229	1,890,229	176,158
Capital Projects - Local Capital Improvement	-	4,559,849	4,559,849	436,587
Nonmajor Governmental Funds	-	1,844,250	1,844,250	144,599
Total	\$ 2,936,365	12,101,887	\$ 15,038,252	\$ (674,827)
Percentage of Total Fund Balance	20%	80%	100%	

Major Governmental Funds

The General Fund is the District’s chief operating fund. At the end of the current fiscal year, unassigned fund balance is \$2,936,365, while the total fund balance is \$6,743,924. As a measure of the General Fund’s liquidity, it may be useful to compare the total assigned and unassigned fund balances to General Fund total revenues. The total assigned and unassigned fund balance is 9.5 percent of the total General

Fund revenues, while total fund balance represents 15.8 percent of total General Fund revenues. Total fund balance decreased by \$1,432,171, mainly due to net changes in these General Fund projects:

- Industry Certification for Nursing and Patient Care (project #19) increased due to students passing exams totaling \$74,099.
- Economic Development Authority Grant (project #808) decreased as the grant was spent out totaling \$60,719.
- Reading (special use project #953) decreased as the categorical was spent out totaling \$130,156.
- Health insurance fund 113 decreased \$518,574, after \$517,000 was sent to the FSHIP Self Insurance Fund as a supplemental premium contribution to cover high claims expenses.
- Safe Schools (project #957) increased when school resource officer billings were received late and paid in the 2025-26 fiscal year totaling \$77,154.
- Mental Health (project #963) decreased due to covering the payroll and benefits for two mental health professionals and three social workers totaling \$88,868.
- Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) (project #1031) increased \$75,798 as Federal funds paid a portion of VPK teachers and paraprofessionals.
- Workforce Development CAP grant (project #1196) decreased because expenditures were not reimbursed until the 2025-26 fiscal year totaling \$196,437.
- Workforce Development CAP grant (project #1200) increased due to quarterly advances in excess of expenditures totaling \$182,474.
- Unrestricted and unassigned (project #900) decreased by \$900,350. During the 2024-25 fiscal year, the number of unweighted full-time equivalent students in District traditional schools and in the District's virtual instruction program decreased by 224.80 when compared to the prior school year.

The Special Revenue – Food Service Fund has a total fund balance of \$1,890,229 which is restricted for the District's food service operations. Of the total fund balance, \$139,558 represents nonspendable inventories. During the fiscal year, total fund balance increased \$176,159.

The Special Revenue – Other Fund has total revenues and expenditures of \$4,754,007 each. Because grant revenues are not recognized until expenditures are incurred, this fund generally does not accumulate a fund balance.

The Special Revenue – Federal Education Stabilization Fund has total revenues and expenditures of \$2,855,165 each. Because grant revenues are not recognized until expenditures are incurred, this fund generally does not accumulate a fund balance.

The Capital Projects – Local Capital Improvement Fund has a total fund balance of \$4,559,849. These funds are restricted, in part, for the acquisition, construction, and maintenance of capital assets. The fund balance increased in the current fiscal year due to an increase in property tax revenue. Of the total fund balance, \$1,101,983 has been encumbered for various projects.

Proprietary Funds

The District's proprietary funds provide the same type of information reported in the government-wide financial statements, but in more detail. The Internal Service Fund self insurance premium revenue includes District and employee premium contributions to the District's self-insured health insurance

program. Claims, reinsurance premiums, and administrative expenses totaling \$8,553,361 were paid. Unrestricted net position of the Internal Service Fund decreased by \$393,034 during the 2024-25 fiscal year to a deficit \$134,042 at June 30, 2025. This decrease occurred primarily because claims expenses exceeded premium revenues.

GENERAL FUND BUDGETARY HIGHLIGHTS

The budgetary comparison schedule for the General Fund lists original budget, final budget, and actual amounts.

- The final budget expenditures increased from the original budget by \$1,048,105 primarily due to increases to school administration, operation of plant, and maintenance of plant.
- Instruction had a positive variance of \$1,226,100 primarily due to unspent funds for professional services, rentals, supplies, textbooks, equipment, and renovations.

CAPITAL ASSETS AND LONG-TERM DEBT

Capital Assets

The District’s investment in capital assets for its governmental activities at June 30, 2025, is \$53,974,793 (net of accumulated depreciation). This investment in capital assets includes land; land improvements; construction in progress; improvements other than buildings; buildings and fixed equipment; furniture, fixtures, and equipment; motor vehicles; and computer software. The total decrease in capital assets for the current fiscal year was 1.1 percent.

	Balance 6-30-25	Balance 6-30-24	Increase (Decrease)
Land	\$ 2,380,354	\$ 2,346,534	\$ 33,820
Land Improvements	241,975	241,975	-
Construction in Progress	561,276	1,425,915	(864,639)
Improvements Other Than Buildings	1,516,884	1,548,534	(31,650)
Buildings and Fixed Equipment	44,585,876	44,274,435	311,441
Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment	2,332,134	2,177,791	154,343
Motor Vehicles	2,023,893	2,063,223	(39,330)
Computer Software	332,401	499,397	(166,996)
Total Capital Assets, Net of Depreciation	\$ 53,974,793	\$ 54,577,804	\$ (603,011)

Construction in progress projects completed in fiscal year 2025 include: HVAC controllers at Hardee Senior High buildings; audio enhancements at Zolfo Springs Elementary buildings; and renovations at the Hardee Count recreation complex, a joint-use facility.

Additional information on the District’s capital assets can be found in Notes I.F.4. and IV.C to the financial statements.

Long-Term Debt

Bonds payable is the only long-term debt related to capital assets. At June 30, 2025, the District had total bonded debt outstanding \$1,505,000 for District Revenue Bonds, Series 2009, that mature in

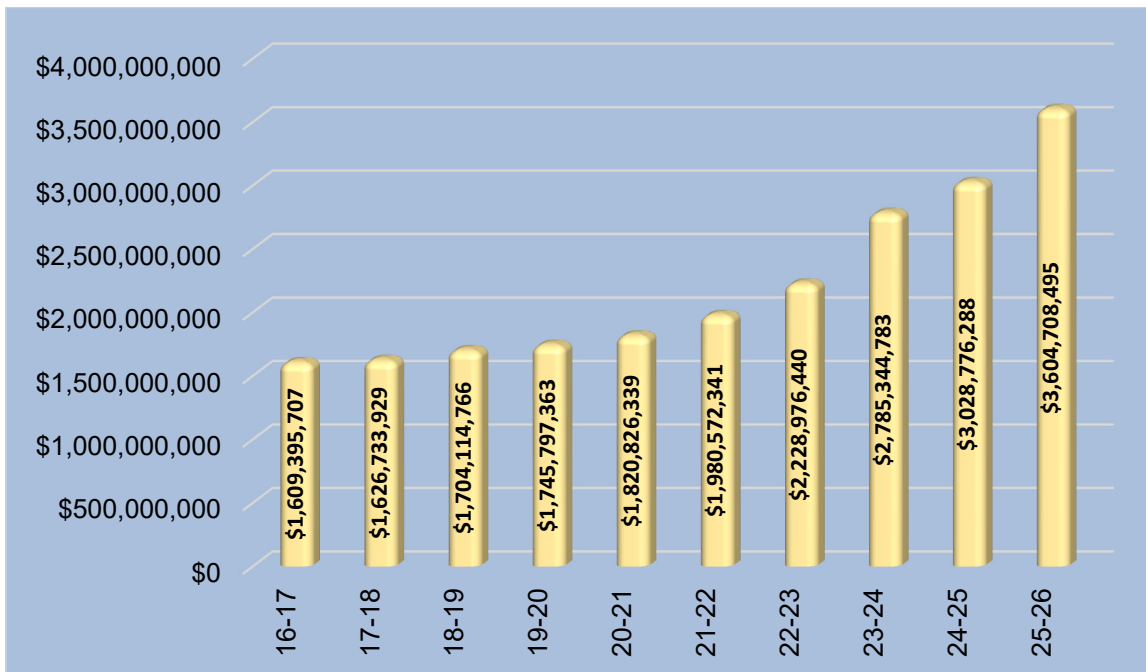
November 2035. Additional information on the District's long-term debt is in Note IV.H. to the financial statements.

OTHER MATTERS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hardee County

Hardee County's population was estimated to be 26,068 in 2024 with 6.5 percent of the population under age 5 and 24.7 percent of the population under age 18. Between 2010 and 2020, Hardee County's population decreased by 8.7 percent. Between 2020 and 2024, Hardee County's population increased by 741 or 2.9 percent. Because funding is largely based on the number of enrolled students, any decrease in population, particularly of school-aged children, may decrease District enrollment and related funding.

Taxable values for Hardee County increased by \$575,932,207 (19.0 percent) to \$3,604,708,495 for the 2025-26 fiscal year. Taxable value in Hardee County is comprised of real property and tangible property. The biggest components of real property are agricultural, single family residential and improved commercial/industrial property. Tangible property includes power generation, utilities and other tangible property. The following chart represents Hardee County taxable property values:

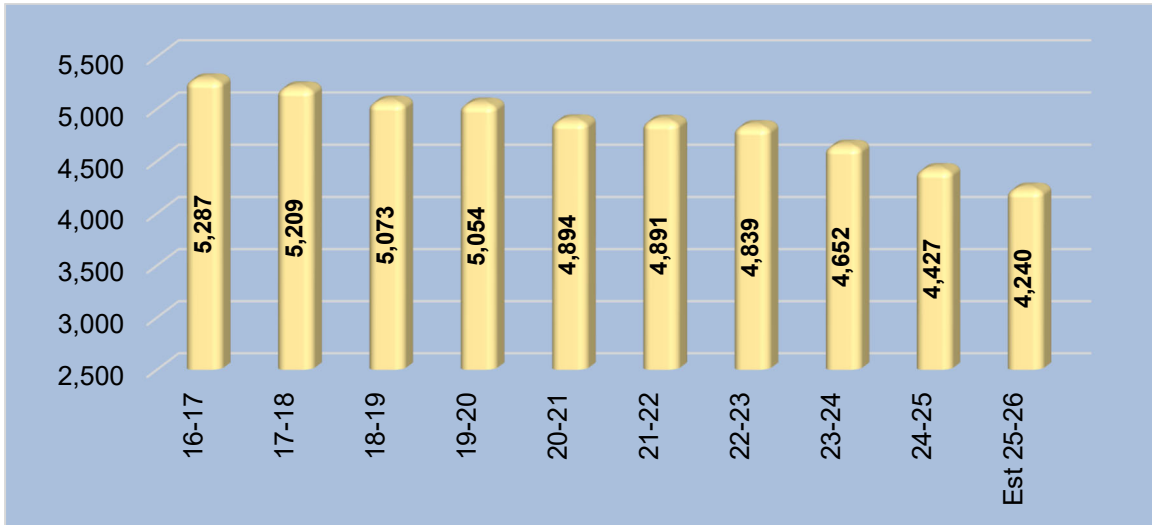


Hardee County School District

The Hardee County School District was comprised of five elementary schools, a junior high school, a senior high school, an adult education program, various preschool programs, a District virtual franchise, and an alternative school. For the 2025-26 fiscal year, the District closed Bowling Green Elementary School. The District's number of unweighted full-time equivalent students (UFTE) in 2024-25, excluding Family Empowerment Scholarship (FES) UFTE, decreased by 225 students to 4,427. The District projects to serve 4,240 UFTE students, excluding the Family Empowerment Scholarship, in the

2025-26 fiscal year, in traditional Hardee schools and in the District’s virtual franchise. The following chart shows the number of UFTE students, excluding FES:

**Number of Unweighted Full-time Equivalent Students,
Excluding Family Empowerment Scholarships**



On September 8, 2025, the Board adopted millage rates and an original budget for the 2025-26 fiscal year, and the projects to be funded with capital outlay taxes. The following schedule compares total fund balances at June 30, 2025, and projected fund balances for June 30, 2026:

	Projected Fund Balance 6/30/26	Actual Fund Balance 6/30/25	Projected Changed in Fund Balance FY 2024-25
Major Governmental Funds:			
General	\$ 5,372,204	\$ 6,743,924	\$ (1,371,720)
Special Revenue - Food Service	1,694,721	1,890,229	(195,508)
Capital Projects - Local Capital Improvement	1,610,007	4,559,849	(2,949,842)
Nonmajor Governmental Funds	1,224,152	1,844,250	(620,098)
Total	\$ 9,901,084	\$ 15,038,252	\$ (5,137,168)

The fund balance in the General Fund is expected to decrease due to declining student enrollment. Significant unspent funds at June 30, 2025, are budgeted to be spent during the 2025-26 fiscal year on services for the District’s virtual program, School Board attorney, School Board lobbying firm, school resource officers, Skyward software, and science textbooks.

The fund balance in the Capital Projects – Local Capital Improvement Fund is expected to decrease because unspent funds at June 30, 2025, are budgeted to be spent during the 2025-26 fiscal year on the following major capital projects: renovate bathrooms at North Wauchula Elementary; two generators; one bus; one vehicle; equipment and technology; Districtwide enterprise software; covered walkway at Bowling Green Elementary (multi-year funding); HVAC renovations; roofing renovation at North Wauchula Elementary; carpet and tile replacement; and a fire alarm system at Hardee Senior High.

The fund balance in nonmajor governmental funds is expected to decrease because unspent funds at June 30, 2025, are budgeted to be spent during the 2025-26 fiscal year on roofing renovation at North Wauchula Elementary from Capital Outlay and Debt Service Program funds.

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

This report is designed to provide a general overview of the District's finances for all those with an interest in the District's finances. Questions concerning information provided in the MD&A or other required supplementary information, and financial statements and notes thereto, or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to:

Hilary Hathaway
Director of Finance
Hardee County School Board
P.O. Box 1678
Wauchula, Florida 33873
(863) 773-9058 ext. 1216
hhathaway@hardee.k12.fl.us

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BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Hardee County District School Board Statement of Net Position June 30, 2025

	<u>Primary Government Governmental Activities</u>	<u>Component Unit</u>
ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 12,655,062.36	\$ 570,082.00
Investments	2,458,356.29	9,904,300.00
Accounts Receivable	8,579.09	111,221.00
Due from Other Agencies	1,753,630.99	-
Inventories	500,499.88	-
Capital Assets:		
Nondepreciable Capital Assets	3,183,605.38	-
Depreciable Capital Assets, Net	50,791,187.59	-
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>71,350,921.58</u>	<u>10,585,603.00</u>
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES		
Pensions	9,165,800.00	-
OPEB	392,903.00	-
TOTAL DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES	<u>9,558,703.00</u>	<u>-</u>
LIABILITIES		
Accrued Salaries and Benefits	587,240.29	-
Payroll Deductions and Withholdings	10,816.20	-
Accounts Payable	283,121.29	98,044.00
Construction Contracts Payable	55,702.30	-
Due to Other Agencies	297,432.87	-
Sales Tax Payable	616.00	-
Matured Interest Payable	1,817.50	-
Accrued Interest Payable	75,833.75	-
Unearned Revenue	80,671.86	-
Estimated Liability for Self-Insurance Program	1,154,500.00	-
Long-Term Liabilities:		
Portion Due Within 1 Year	556,407.00	-
Portion Due After 1 Year	36,254,069.54	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>39,358,228.60</u>	<u>98,044.00</u>
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES		
Pensions	5,226,305.00	-
OPEB	712,619.00	-
TOTAL DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES	<u>5,938,924.00</u>	<u>-</u>
NET POSITION		
Net Investment in Capital Assets	52,469,792.97	-
Restricted for:		
State Required Carryover Programs	2,106,745.11	-
Debt Service	108,149.79	-
Capital Projects	5,606,700.20	-
Food Service	1,890,228.86	-
Other Purposes	845,875.56	10,487,559.00
Unrestricted	(27,415,020.51)	-
TOTAL NET POSITION	<u>\$ 35,612,471.98</u>	<u>\$ 10,487,559.00</u>

The accompanying notes to financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**Hardee County District School Board
Statement of Activities
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025**

Functions/Programs	Expenses	Program Revenues		
		Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions
Primary Government				
Governmental Activities:				
Instruction	\$ 28,721,240.99	\$ 62,804.89	\$ -	\$ -
Student Support Services	3,868,860.37	-	-	-
Instructional Media Services	916,928.83	-	-	-
Instruction and Curriculum Development Services	977,372.79	-	-	-
Instructional Staff Training Services	665,648.44	-	-	-
Instruction-Related Technology	1,665,361.36	-	-	-
Board	481,521.74	-	-	-
General Administration	729,477.59	-	-	-
School Administration	2,506,216.34	-	-	-
Facilities Acquisition and Construction	961,795.59	-	-	195,740.52
Fiscal Services	513,799.60	-	-	-
Food Services	3,446,353.34	21,777.79	3,448,329.41	-
Central Services	1,461,862.37	-	-	-
Student Transportation Services	2,639,243.57	128,217.32	-	-
Operation of Plant	4,762,850.46	-	-	-
Maintenance of Plant	2,496,744.95	-	-	-
Administrative Technology Services	414,403.37	-	-	-
Community Services	1,593,079.68	-	-	-
Unallocated Interest on Long-Term Debt	75,833.75	-	-	-
Unallocated Depreciation Expense*	1,263,629.54	-	-	-
Total Primary Government	\$ 60,162,224.67	\$ 212,800.00	\$ 3,448,329.41	\$ 195,740.52
Component Unit				
The Hardee County Education Foundation, Inc.	\$ 578,521.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 304,129.00	\$ 0.00

General Revenues:

Taxes:

Property Taxes, Levied for Operational Purposes

Property Taxes, Levied for Capital Projects

Grants and Contributions Not Restricted to Specific Programs

Unrestricted Investment Earnings

Miscellaneous

Total General Revenues

Change in Net Position

Net Position - Beginning

Net Position - Ending

* This amount excludes the depreciation that is included in the direct expenses of the various functions.

The accompanying notes to financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**Net (Expense) Revenue and
Changes in Net Position**

Primary Governmental Governmental Activities	Component Unit
\$ (28,658,436.10)	\$ -
(3,868,860.37)	-
(916,928.83)	-
(977,372.79)	-
(665,648.44)	-
(1,665,361.36)	-
(481,521.74)	-
(729,477.59)	-
(2,506,216.34)	-
(766,055.07)	-
(513,799.60)	-
23,753.86	-
(1,461,862.37)	-
(2,511,026.25)	-
(4,762,850.46)	-
(2,496,744.95)	-
(414,403.37)	-
(1,593,079.68)	-
(75,833.75)	-
(1,263,629.54)	-
<u>(56,305,354.74)</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>-</u>	<u>(274,392.00)</u>
11,178,851.30	-
4,431,322.95	-
37,385,232.04	-
57,684.79	850,012.00
<u>3,125,214.71</u>	<u>157,826.00</u>
<u>56,178,305.79</u>	<u>1,007,838.00</u>
(127,048.95)	733,446.00
<u>35,739,520.93</u>	<u>9,754,113.00</u>
<u>\$ 35,612,471.98</u>	<u>\$ 10,487,559.00</u>

**Hardee County District School Board
Balance Sheet – Governmental Funds
June 30, 2025**

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Special Revenue - Food Service Fund</u>	<u>Special Revenue - Other Fund</u>
ASSETS			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 3,690,063.51	\$ 1,625,677.49	\$ -
Investments	2,458,356.29	-	-
Accounts Receivable	8,579.09	-	-
Due from Other Funds	1,159,714.76	-	-
Due from Other Agencies	179,801.91	130,507.27	1,215,864.17
Inventories	360,941.45	139,558.43	-
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 7,857,457.01	\$ 1,895,743.19	\$ 1,215,864.17
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES			
Liabilities:			
Accrued Salaries and Benefits	\$ 587,240.29	\$ -	\$ -
Payroll Deductions and Withholdings	10,816.20	-	-
Accounts Payable	218,043.31	1,528.69	51,708.19
Construction Contracts Payable	-	-	-
Due to Other Funds	-	3,985.64	1,155,729.12
Due to Other Agencies	297,432.87	-	-
Sales Tax Payable	-	-	-
Matured Interest Payable	-	-	-
Unearned Revenue	-	-	8,426.86
Total Liabilities	1,113,532.67	5,514.33	1,215,864.17
Fund Balances:			
Nonspendable:			
Inventories	360,941.45	139,558.43	-
Restricted for:			
State Required Carryover Programs	2,106,745.11	-	-
Local Carryover Programs	232,460.56	-	-
Debt Service	-	-	-
Capital Projects	-	-	-
Food Service	-	1,750,670.43	-
Total Restricted Fund Balance	2,339,205.67	1,750,670.43	-
Assigned for:			
Health Insurance	1,009,948.78	-	-
Projected Budget Deficit	97,463.77	-	-
Total Assigned Fund Balance	1,107,412.55	-	-
Unassigned Fund Balance	2,936,364.67	-	-
Total Fund Balances	6,743,924.34	1,890,228.86	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	\$ 7,857,457.01	\$ 1,895,743.19	\$ 1,215,864.17

The accompanying notes to financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

Special Revenue - Federal Education Stabilization Fund	Capital Projects - Local Capital Improvement Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
\$ -	\$ 4,627,392.29	\$ 1,691,470.71	\$ 11,634,604.00
-	-	-	2,458,356.29
-	-	-	8,579.09
-	-	-	1,159,714.76
-	-	227,457.64	1,753,630.99
-	-	-	500,499.88
\$ 0.00	\$ 4,627,392.29	\$ 1,918,928.35	\$ 17,515,385.01
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 587,240.29
-	-	-	10,816.20
-	11,841.10	-	283,121.29
-	55,702.30	-	55,702.30
-	-	-	1,159,714.76
-	-	-	297,432.87
-	-	616.00	616.00
-	-	1,817.50	1,817.50
-	-	72,245.00	80,671.86
-	67,543.40	74,678.50	2,477,133.07
-	-	-	500,499.88
-	-	-	2,106,745.11
-	-	613,415.00	845,875.56
-	-	183,983.54	183,983.54
-	4,559,848.89	1,046,851.31	5,606,700.20
-	-	-	1,750,670.43
-	4,559,848.89	1,844,249.85	10,493,974.84
-	-	-	1,009,948.78
-	-	-	97,463.77
-	-	-	1,107,412.55
-	-	-	2,936,364.67
-	4,559,848.89	1,844,249.85	15,038,251.94
\$ 0.00	\$ 4,627,392.29	\$ 1,918,928.35	\$ 17,515,385.01

**Hardee County District School Board
Reconciliation of the Governmental Funds Balance Sheet
to the Statement of Net Position
June 30, 2025**

Total Fund Balances - Governmental Funds \$ 15,038,251.94

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

Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as assets in the governmental funds. 53,974,792.97

Interest on bonds payable is accrued as a liability in the government-wide statements, but is not recognized in the governmental funds until due. (75,833.75)

Internal service funds are used by management to charge the costs of certain activities, such as insurance, to individual funds. The assets and liabilities of the internal service fund are included in governmental activities in the statement of net position. (134,041.64)

The deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions and other postemployment benefits (OPEB) are applicable to future periods and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds.

Deferred Outflows Related to Pensions	\$ 9,165,800.00	
Deferred Outflows Related to OPEB	392,903.00	
Deferred Inflows Related to Pensions	(5,226,305.00)	
Deferred Inflows Related to OPEB	<u>(712,619.00)</u>	3,619,779.00

Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the fiscal year and, therefore, are not reported as liabilities in the governmental funds. Long-term liabilities at year end consist of:

Bonds Payable	\$ (1,505,000.00)	
Compensated Absences Payable	(1,738,805.54)	
Net Pension Liability	(31,182,329.00)	
Total OPEB Liability	<u>(2,384,342.00)</u>	<u>(36,810,476.54)</u>

Net Position - Governmental Activities **\$ 35,612,471.98**

The accompanying notes to financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

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**Hardee County District School Board
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in
Fund Balances – Governmental Funds
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025**

	General Fund	Special Revenue - Food Service Fund	Special Revenue - Other Fund
Revenues			
Intergovernmental:			
Federal Direct	\$ 92,109.99	\$ -	\$ -
Federal Through State and Local	37,631.83	3,412,033.41	4,754,006.72
State	29,461,647.08	36,296.00	-
Local:			
Property Taxes	11,178,851.30	-	-
Charges for Services	-	21,777.79	-
Miscellaneous	1,866,775.52	49,319.81	-
Total Local Revenues	<u>13,045,626.82</u>	<u>71,097.60</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Revenues	<u>42,637,015.72</u>	<u>3,519,427.01</u>	<u>4,754,006.72</u>
Expenditures			
Current - Education:			
Instruction	24,755,242.43	-	2,402,228.39
Student Support Services	2,664,745.77	-	1,222,207.94
Instructional Media Services	722,098.55	-	-
Instruction and Curriculum Development Services	473,592.25	-	531,316.17
Instructional Staff Training Services	262,214.73	-	374,055.91
Instruction-Related Technology	1,304,660.93	-	41,253.20
Board	487,685.36	-	-
General Administration	529,713.38	-	154,591.02
School Administration	2,583,267.02	-	-
Facilities Acquisition and Construction	7,223.00	-	-
Fiscal Services	554,863.50	-	-
Food Services	5,895.80	3,264,720.78	-
Central Services	550,022.22	-	-
Student Transportation Services	2,303,791.60	-	23,289.09
Operation of Plant	4,739,125.51	-	-
Maintenance of Plant	2,413,402.23	-	-
Administrative Technology Services	350,596.08	-	-
Community Services	312,635.33	-	-
Fixed Capital Outlay:			
Facilities Acquisition and Construction	528,733.27	-	-
Other Capital Outlay	348,742.78	119,598.25	5,065.00
Debt Service:			
Principal	-	-	-
Interest and Fiscal Charges	-	-	-
Due and Fees	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	<u>45,898,251.74</u>	<u>3,384,319.03</u>	<u>4,754,006.72</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures	<u>(3,261,236.02)</u>	<u>135,107.98</u>	<u>-</u>
Other Financing Sources (Uses)			
Transfers In	2,288,124.30	-	-
Sale of Capital Assets	-	32,889.14	-
Loss Recoveries	57,940.95	8,161.64	-
Transfers Out	(517,000.00)	-	-
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	<u>1,829,065.25</u>	<u>41,050.78</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Change in Fund Balances	<u>(1,432,170.77)</u>	<u>176,158.76</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund Balances, Beginning	8,176,095.11	-	-
Adjustment to Beginning Fund Balances	-	1,714,070.10	-
Fund Balances, Beginning, as Restated	<u>8,176,095.11</u>	<u>1,714,070.10</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund Balances, Ending	<u>\$ 6,743,924.34</u>	<u>\$ 1,890,228.86</u>	<u>\$ 0.00</u>

The accompanying notes to financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

Special Revenue - Federal Education Stabilization Fund	Capital Projects - Local Capital Improvement Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 92,109.99
2,855,165.01	-	-	11,058,836.97
-	-	380,839.90	29,878,782.98
-	4,431,322.95	-	15,610,174.25
-	-	-	21,777.79
-	140,845.74	1,289,126.64	3,346,067.71
-	4,572,168.69	1,289,126.64	18,978,019.75
2,855,165.01	4,572,168.69	1,669,966.54	60,007,749.69
1,561,921.56	-	-	28,719,392.38
70,958.19	-	-	3,957,911.90
9,688.50	-	-	731,787.05
8,612.00	-	-	1,013,520.42
40,065.05	-	-	676,335.69
340,051.23	-	-	1,685,965.36
-	-	-	487,685.36
66,306.04	-	-	750,610.44
49,912.92	-	-	2,633,179.94
4,529.29	201,606.94	-	213,359.23
4,306.00	-	-	559,169.50
32,295.00	-	-	3,302,911.58
2,153.00	-	-	552,175.22
57,377.24	-	-	2,384,457.93
46,662.50	-	-	4,785,788.01
21,530.00	-	-	2,434,932.23
70,589.79	-	-	421,185.87
1,076.50	-	1,305,663.00	1,619,374.83
427,289.78	1,111,142.74	38,084.74	2,105,250.53
39,840.42	534,707.98	-	1,047,954.43
-	-	100,000.00	100,000.00
-	-	80,627.50	80,627.50
-	-	992.52	992.52
2,855,165.01	1,847,457.66	1,525,367.76	60,264,567.92
-	2,724,711.03	144,598.78	(256,818.23)
-	-	-	2,288,124.30
-	-	-	32,889.14
-	-	-	66,102.59
-	(2,288,124.30)	-	(2,805,124.30)
-	(2,288,124.30)	-	(418,008.27)
-	436,586.73	144,598.78	(674,826.50)
-	4,123,262.16	3,413,721.17	15,713,078.44
-	-	(1,714,070.10)	-
-	4,123,262.16	1,699,651.07	15,713,078.44
\$ 0.00	\$ 4,559,848.89	\$ 1,844,249.85	\$ 15,038,251.94

Hardee County District School Board
Reconciliation of the Governmental Funds Statement of Revenues, Expenditures,
and Changes in Fund Balances to the Statement of Activities
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025

Net Change in Fund Balances - Governmental Funds \$ (674,826.50)

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

Capital outlays are reported in the governmental funds as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives as depreciation expense. This is the amount of depreciation expense in excess of capital outlays in the current fiscal year. (603,010.74)

Repayment of long-term debt is an expenditure in the governmental funds, but the repayment reduces long-term liabilities in the statement of net position. This is the amount of repayments in the current fiscal year. 100,000.00

Interest on long-term debt is recognized as an expenditure in the governmental funds when due, but is recognized as interest accrues in the statement of activities. This is the decrease in the accrued interest payable. 4,792.75

Governmental funds recognize revenues when they are measurable and available to pay liabilities in the current period. However, in the statement of activities, revenue is recognized as soon as it is earned regardless of availability. This is the effect of the timing difference between the two methods of revenue recognition. (427.97)

In the statement of activities, the cost of compensated absences is measured by the amounts earned during the year, while in the governmental funds, expenditures are recognized based on the amounts actually paid for compensated absences. This is the net amount of compensated absences used in excess of the amount earned in the current fiscal year. 1,078,114.73

Governmental funds report District OPEB contributions as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities, the cost of OPEB benefits earned net of employee contributions, as determined through an actuarial valuation, is reported as an OPEB expense.

Increase in Total OPEB Liability	\$	(92,686.00)	
Decrease in Deferred Outflows of Resources - OPEB		(17,639.00)	
Decrease in Deferred Inflows of Resources - OPEB		194,919.00	84,594.00

Governmental funds report District pension contributions as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities, the cost of pension benefits earned net of employee contributions is reported as a pension expense.

FRS Pension Contribution	\$	2,766,257.00	
HIS Pension Contribution		545,331.00	
FRS Pension Expense		(2,847,764.00)	
HIS Pension Expense		(187,075.00)	276,749.00

Internal service funds are used by management to charge the cost of certain activities, such as insurance, to individual funds. The change in net position of the internal service funds is reported with governmental activities. (393,034.22)

Change in Net Position - Governmental Activities \$ (127,048.95)

The accompanying notes to financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**Hardee County District School Board
Statement of Net Position – Proprietary Fund
June 30, 2025**

	<u>Internal Service Fund</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets:	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>\$ 1,020,458.36</u>
LIABILITIES	
Current Liabilities:	
Estimated Liability for Self-Insurance Program	<u>1,154,500.00</u>
NET POSITION	
Unrestricted	<u>\$ (134,041.64)</u>

The accompanying notes to financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**Hardee County District School Board
Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Fund
Net Position – Proprietary Fund
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025**

	Internal Service Fund
OPERATING REVENUES	
Premiums	\$ 7,230,047.96
Other	413,278.94
Total Operating Revenues	7,643,326.90
OPERATING EXPENSES	
Purchased Services	1,267,056.99
Insurance Claims	7,286,304.13
Total Operating Expenses	8,553,361.12
Operating Loss Before Transfers	(910,034.22)
Transfers In	517,000.00
Change in Net Position	(393,034.22)
Total Net Position - Beginning	258,992.58
Total Net Position - Ending	\$ (134,041.64)

The accompanying notes to financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**Hardee County District School Board
Statement of Cash Flows – Proprietary Fund
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025**

	Internal Service Fund
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	
Cash Received from Premiums	\$ 7,230,047.96
Cash Received from Other Operating Revenues	413,278.94
Cash Payments to Suppliers for Goods and Services	(1,333,816.72)
Cash Payments for Insurance Claims	(6,552,804.13)
	<u>(243,293.95)</u>
Net Cash Used by Operating Activities	
CASH FLOWS FROM NONCAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES	
Transfer from Other Funds	517,000.00
	<u>517,000.00</u>
Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents	273,706.05
Cash and Cash Equivalents, Beginning	746,752.31
	<u>746,752.31</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents, Ending	\$ 1,020,458.36
	<u><u>\$ 1,020,458.36</u></u>
Reconciliation of Operating Loss to Net Cash Used by Operating Activities:	
Operating Loss	\$ (910,034.22)
Adjustments to Reconcile Operating Loss to Net Cash Used by Operating Activities:	
Changes in Assets and Liabilities:	
Accounts Payable	(66,759.73)
Estimated Liability for Self-Insurance Program	733,500.00
	<u>666,740.27</u>
Total Adjustments	666,740.27
Net Cash Used by Operating Activities	\$ (243,293.95)
	<u><u>\$ (243,293.95)</u></u>

The accompanying notes to financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**Hardee County District School Board
Statement of Fiduciary Net Position – Fiduciary Fund
June 30, 2025**

	<u>Private-Purpose Trust Fund</u>
ASSETS	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ <u>8,905.78</u>
NET POSITION	
Held in Trust for Scholarships and Other Purposes	\$ <u>8,905.78</u>

The accompanying notes to financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**Hardee County District School Board
Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position – Fiduciary Fund
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025**

	Private-Purpose Trust Fund
ADDITIONS	
Investment Earnings:	
Interest, Dividends, and Other	\$ 263.94
Change in Net Position	263.94
Net Position - Beginning	8,641.84
Net Position - Ending	\$ 8,905.78

The accompanying notes to financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

I. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of Government-Wide Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements (i.e., the statement of net position and the statement of activities) report information on all of the nonfiduciary activities of the primary government and its component units. All fiduciary activities are reported only in the fund financial statements. Governmental activities are normally supported by taxes, intergovernmental revenues, and other nonexchange transactions. The primary government is reported separately from the legally separate component unit for which the primary government is financially accountable.

The statement of activities presents a comparison between direct expenses and program revenues for each function or program of the Hardee County School District's (District) governmental activities. Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with a service, program, or department and are thereby clearly identifiable to a particular function. Depreciation expense associated with a specific program or activity is allocated to the related function, while remaining depreciation expense is not readily associated with a particular function and is reported as unallocated.

B. Reporting Entity

The Hardee County District School Board (Board) has direct responsibility for operation, control, and supervision of District schools and is considered a primary government for financial reporting. The District is considered part of the Florida system of public education, operates under the general direction of the Florida Department of Education (FDOE), and is governed by State law and State Board of Education (SBE) rules. The governing body of the District is the Board, which is composed of five elected members. The elected Superintendent of Schools is the executive officer of the Board. Geographic boundaries of the District correspond with those of Hardee County.

Criteria for determining if other entities are potential component units that should be reported within the District's basic financial statements are identified and described in the Governmental Accounting Standards Board's (GASB) *Codification of Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards*, Sections 2100 and 2600. The application of these criteria provides for identification of any legally separate entities for which the Board is financially accountable and other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationship with the Board are such that exclusion would cause the District's basic financial statements to be misleading.

Based on the application of these criteria, the following component unit is included within the District's reporting entity:

Discretely Presented Component Unit. The component unit columns in the government-wide financial statements include the financial data of the Hardee County Education Foundation, Inc. (Foundation). A separate column is used to emphasize that it is legally separate from the District.

The Foundation is a separate not-for-profit corporation organized and operated as a direct-support organization to receive, hold, invest, and administer property and to make expenditures to and for the

benefit of the District. Because of the nature and significance of its relationship with the District, the Foundation is considered a component unit.

The financial data reported on the accompanying statements was derived from the Foundation's audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025. The statements are filed in the District's administrative offices at 1009 North 6th Avenue, Wauchula, Florida.

C. Basis of Presentation: Government-Wide Financial Statements

While separate government-wide and fund financial statements are presented, they are interrelated. The governmental activities column incorporates data from governmental funds. Separate financial statements are provided for governmental funds, proprietary funds, and fiduciary funds, even though the latter are excluded from the government-wide financial statements.

The effects of interfund activity have been eliminated from the government-wide financial statements except for interfund services provided and used.

D. Basis of Presentation: Fund Financial Statements

The fund financial statements provide information about the District's funds, including the fiduciary funds. Separate statements for each fund category – governmental, proprietary, and fiduciary – are presented. The emphasis of fund financial statements is on major governmental funds; each displayed in a separate column. All remaining governmental funds are aggregated and reported as nonmajor funds.

The District reports the following major governmental funds:

- General Fund – to account for all financial resources not required to be accounted for in another fund and for certain revenues from the State that are legally restricted to be expended for specific current operating purposes.
- Special Revenue – Food Service Fund – to account for financial resources generated by the Food Service Program.
- Special Revenue – Other Fund – to account for certain Federal grant program resources.
- Special Revenue – Federal Education Stabilization Fund – to account for certain Federal grant program resources provided as emergency relief to address the impact of COVID-19 on elementary and secondary schools.
- Capital Projects – Local Capital Improvement Fund – to account for the financial resources generated by the local capital improvement tax levy to be used for educational capital outlay needs, including new construction, renovation and remodeling projects, new and replacement equipment, and motor vehicle purchases.

Additionally, the District reports the following proprietary and fiduciary fund types:

- Internal Service Fund – to account for the District's group health self-insurance program.
- Private-Purpose Trust Fund – to account for scholarship funds established by private donors.

During the course of operations, the District has activity between funds for various purposes. Any residual balances outstanding at fiscal year end are reported as due from/to other funds. While these balances are reported in fund financial statements, certain eliminations are made in the preparation of the government-wide financial statements. Balances between the funds included in governmental

activities (i.e., the governmental and internal service funds) are eliminated so that only the net amount is included as internal balances in the governmental activities column. Further, certain activity occurs during the year involving transfers of resources between funds. In fund financial statements, these amounts are reported at gross amounts as transfers in and out. While reported in fund financial statements, certain eliminations are made in the preparation of the government-wide financial statements.

E. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting

The accounting and financial reporting treatment is determined by the applicable measurement focus and basis of accounting. Measurement focus indicates the type of resources being measured such as current financial resources or economic resources. The basis of accounting indicates the timing of transactions or events for recognition in the financial statements.

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recognized when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of the related cash flows. Property taxes are recognized in the year for which they are levied. Revenues from grants, entitlements, and donations are recognized as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

The governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues, except for certain grant revenues, are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the District considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 62 days of the end of the current fiscal year. When grant terms provide that the expenditure of resources is the prime factor for determining eligibility for Federal, State, and other grant resources, revenue is recognized at the time the expenditure is made. Entitlements are recorded as revenues when all eligibility requirements are met, including any time requirements, and the amount is received during the period or within the availability period for this revenue source (within 62 days of year end). Expenditures are generally recognized when the related fund liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. However, debt service expenditures, claims and judgments, pension benefits, other postemployment benefits, and compensated absences, are only recorded when payment is due. General capital asset acquisitions are reported as expenditures in governmental funds. Issuance of long-term debt and acquisitions under leases are reported as other financing sources. Allocations of cost, such as depreciation, are not recognized in governmental funds.

The proprietary and fiduciary funds are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting.

The Foundation is accounted for as a stand-alone enterprise fund and uses the accrual basis of accounting whereby revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recognized when incurred.

F. Assets, Liabilities, Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources, and Net Position/Fund Balance

1. Cash and Cash Equivalents

The District's cash and cash equivalents are considered to be cash on hand, demand deposits, and short-term liquid investments with original maturities of 3 months or less from the date of acquisition. Investments classified as cash equivalents include amounts placed with the State Board of Administration (SBA) in Florida PRIME.

Cash deposits are held by banks qualified as public depositories under Florida law. All deposits are insured by Federal depository insurance, up to specified limits, or collateralized with securities held in Florida's multiple financial institution collateral pool as required by Chapter 280, Florida Statutes.

2. Investments

Investments consist of amounts placed with the SBA for participation in the Florida PRIME investment pool created by Section 218.405, Florida Statutes, and those made locally. The investment pool operates under investment guidelines established by Section 215.47, Florida Statutes.

The District's investment in Florida PRIME, which the SBA indicates is a Securities and Exchange Commission Rule 2a7-like external investment pool, are similar to money market funds in which shares are owned in the fund rather than the underlying investments. This investment is reported at fair value, which is amortized cost.

Investments made locally consist of a certificate of deposit.

Types and amounts of investments held at fiscal year end are described in a subsequent note.

3. Inventories

Inventories consist of expendable supplies held for consumption in the course of District operations. Inventories are stated at cost on the last invoice, which approximates the first-in, first-out basis, except that United States Department of Agriculture donated foods are stated at their fair value as determined at the time of donation to the District's food service program by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Bureau of Food Distribution. The costs of inventories are recorded as expenditures at the time inventory items are purchased and are adjusted to reflect year-end physical inventories. For surplus donated foods, fiscal year end adjustments are made to the expenditures and corresponding inventory accounts to record physical inventories on hand.

4. Capital Assets

Expenditures for capital assets acquired or constructed for general District purposes are reported in the governmental fund that financed the acquisition or construction. The capital assets so acquired are reported at cost in the government-wide statement of net position but are not reported in the governmental fund financial statements. Capital assets are defined by the District

as those costing more than \$3,000, with the exception of attractive items more easily prone to theft costing more than \$1,500 and buildings and fixed equipment and improvements other than buildings which are those costing more than \$15,000. Such assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost if purchased or constructed. Donated assets are recorded at acquisition value at the date of donation. Land acquired prior to 1973 and most buildings acquired or constructed prior to 1979 are stated at estimated historical cost using price levels at the time of acquisition and, as a result, \$89,680 of the stated land values and \$4,863,833 of stated building values are based on these estimates.

Capital assets are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following estimated useful lives:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Useful Lives</u>
Improvements Other Than Buildings	17.63 years
Buildings and Fixed Equipment	49.23 years
Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment	6.66 years
Motor Vehicles	9.29 years
Computer Software	5.00 years

Current year information relative to changes in capital assets is described in a subsequent note.

5. Pensions

In the government-wide statement of net position, liabilities are recognized for the District's proportionate share of each pension plan's net pension liability. For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the Florida Retirement System (FRS) defined benefit plan and the Health Insurance Subsidy (HIS) defined benefit plan and additions to/deductions from the FRS and the HIS fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the FRS and the HIS plans. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value.

The District's retirement plans and related amounts are described in a subsequent note.

6. Long-Term Liabilities

Long-term obligations that will be financed from resources to be received in the future by governmental funds are reported as liabilities in the government-wide statement of net position.

In the governmental fund financial statements, bonds and other long-term obligations are not recognized as liabilities until due.

Changes in long-term liabilities for the current year are reported in a subsequent note.

7. Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources

In addition to assets, the statement of net position reports a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred outflows of resources,

represents a consumption of net assets that applies to future periods and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense) until then. The District has two items that qualify for reporting in this category. The deferred outflows of resources related to pensions and OPEB are discussed in subsequent notes.

In addition to liabilities, the statement of net position reports a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred inflows of resources, represents an acquisition of net assets that applies to future periods and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. The District has two items that qualify for reporting in this category. The deferred inflows of resources related to pensions and OPEB, are discussed in subsequent notes.

8. Net Position Flow Assumption

The District occasionally funds outlays for a particular purpose from both restricted (e.g., restricted bond or grant proceeds) and unrestricted resources. To calculate the amounts to report as restricted net position and unrestricted net position in the government-wide and proprietary fund financial statements, a flow assumption must be made about the order in which the resources are considered to be applied. Consequently, it is the District's policy to consider restricted net position to have been depleted before unrestricted net position is applied.

9. Fund Balance Flow Assumptions

The District may fund outlays for a particular purpose from both restricted and unrestricted resources (the total of committed, assigned, and unassigned fund balance). To calculate the amounts to report as restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned fund balance in the governmental fund financial statements, a flow assumption must be made about the order in which the resources are considered to be applied. It is the District's policy to consider restricted fund balance to have been depleted before using any of the components of unrestricted fund balance. Further, when components of unrestricted fund balance can be used for the same purpose, committed fund balance is depleted first, followed by assigned fund balance. Unassigned fund balance is applied last.

10. Fund Balance Policies

Fund balance of governmental funds is reported in various categories based on the nature of any limitations requiring the use of resources for specific purposes. The District itself can establish limitations on the use of resources through either a commitment (committed fund balance) or an assignment (assigned fund balance).

The committed fund balance classification includes amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes determined by a formal action of the District's highest level of decision-making authority. The Board is the highest level of decision-making authority for the District that can, by adoption of a resolution prior to the end of the fiscal year, commit fund balance. Once adopted, the limitation imposed by the resolution remains in place until a similar action is taken (the adoption of another resolution) to remove or revise the limitation. The District reported no committed fund balances at June 30, 2025.

Amounts in the assigned fund balance classification are intended to be used by the District for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as committed. The Board has by resolution authorized the finance director to assign fund balance. The Board may also assign fund balance as it does when appropriating fund balance to cover a gap between estimated revenue and appropriations in the subsequent year's appropriated budget. Unlike commitments, assignments generally only exist temporarily. In other words, an additional action does not normally have to be taken for the removal of an assignment. Conversely, as discussed above, an additional action is essential to either remove or revise a commitment.

G. Revenues and Expenditures/Expenses

1. Program Revenues

Amounts reported as program revenues include charges paid by the recipient of the goods or services offered by the program and grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. All taxes, including those dedicated for specific purposes, and other internally dedicated resources are reported as general revenues rather than program revenues. Revenues that are not classified as program revenues are presented as general revenues. The comparison of direct expenses with program revenues identifies the extent to which each governmental function is self-financing or draws from the general revenues of the District.

2. State Revenue Sources

Significant revenues from State sources for current operations include the Florida Education Finance Program administered by the FDOE under the provisions of Section 1011.62, Florida Statutes. In accordance with this law, the District determines and reports the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) students and related data to the FDOE. The FDOE performs certain edit checks on the reported number of FTE and related data and calculates the allocation of funds to the District. The District is permitted to amend its original reporting during specified time periods following the date of the original reporting. The FDOE may also adjust subsequent fiscal period allocations based upon an audit of the District's compliance in determining and reporting FTE and related data. Normally, such adjustments are treated as reductions or additions of revenue in the fiscal year when the adjustments are made.

The State provides financial assistance to administer certain educational programs. SBE rules require that revenue earmarked for certain programs be expended only for the program for which the money is provided and require that the money not expended as of the close of the fiscal year be carried forward into the following fiscal year to be expended for the same educational programs. The FDOE generally requires that these educational program revenues be accounted for in the General Fund. A portion of the fund balance of the General Fund is restricted in the governmental fund financial statements for the balance of categorical and earmarked educational program resources.

A schedule of revenue from State sources for the current year is presented in a subsequent note.

3. District Property Taxes

The Board is authorized by State law to levy property taxes for district school operations, capital improvements, and debt service.

Property taxes consist of ad valorem taxes on real and personal property within the District. Property values are determined by the Hardee County Property Appraiser, and property taxes are collected by the Hardee County Tax Collector.

The Board adopted the 2024 tax levy on September 9, 2024. Tax bills are mailed in October and taxes are payable between November 1 of the year assessed and March 31 of the following year at discounts of up to 4 percent for early payment.

Taxes become a lien on the property on January 1 and are delinquent on April 1 of the year following the year of assessment. State law provides for enforcement of collection of personal property taxes by seizure of the property to satisfy unpaid taxes and for enforcement of collection of real property taxes by the sale of interest-bearing tax certificates to satisfy unpaid taxes. The procedures result in the collection of essentially all taxes prior to June 30 of the year following the year of assessment.

Property tax revenues are recognized in the government-wide financial statements when the Board adopts the tax levy. Property tax revenues are recognized in the governmental fund financial statements when taxes are received by the District, except that revenue is accrued for taxes collected by the Hardee County Tax Collector at fiscal year end but not yet remitted to the District.

Millages and taxes levied for the current year are presented in a subsequent note.

4. Federal Revenue Sources

The District receives Federal awards for the enhancement of various educational programs. Federal awards are generally received based on applications submitted to, and approved by, various granting agencies. For Federal awards in which a claim to these grant proceeds is based on incurring eligible expenditures, revenue is recognized to the extent that eligible expenditures have been incurred. The FDOE may require adjustments to subsequent fiscal period expenditures and related revenues based upon an audit of the District's compliance with applicable Federal awards requirements. Normally, such adjustments are treated as reductions of expenditures and related revenues in the fiscal year when the adjustments are made.

5. Compensated Absences

A compensated absence is leave (e.g., employee vacation leave and sick leave) for which employees may receive one or more (a) cash payments when the leave is used for time off; (b) other cash payments, such as payment for unused leave upon termination of employment; or (c) noncash settlements, such as conversion to defined benefit postemployment benefits. In the government wide financial statements, compensated absences are estimated and accrued as liabilities to the extent that it is more likely than not that the leave will be used for time off or otherwise paid in cash or settled through noncash means. A liability for these amounts is reported

in the governmental fund financial statements only if it has matured, such as for occurrences of employee resignations and retirements. The liability for compensated absences includes salary related benefits, where applicable.

6. Proprietary Fund Operating and Nonoperating Revenues and Expenses

Proprietary funds distinguish operating revenues and expenses from nonoperating items. Operating revenues and expenses generally result from providing services and producing and delivering goods in connection with the proprietary fund’s principal ongoing operations. The principal operating revenues of the District’s internal service funds are charges for employee health insurance premiums. Operating expenses include purchased services and insurance claims. All revenues and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as nonoperating revenues and expenses.

II. ACCOUNTING CHANGES

A. Changes to or within the Financial Reporting Entity

Change from Nonmajor to Major Fund. The Special Revenue – Food Service Fund meets the quantitative requirements for reporting as a major fund in the current fiscal year whereas it did not meet those requirements in the previous fiscal year. The effect of this change to or within the financial reporting entity is shown in the table below.

	Reporting Units Affected by Restatements of Beginning Balances	
	Funds	
	Special Revenue - Food Service	Nonmajor Governmental
Beginning Balances, as previously reported	\$ -	\$ 3,413,721.17
Change from nonmajor to major fund	1,714,070.10	(1,714,070.10)
Beginning Balances, as restated	<u>\$ 1,714,070.10</u>	<u>\$ 1,699,651.07</u>

III. STEWARDSHIP, COMPLIANCE, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Deficit Net Position in a Proprietary Fund.

At June 30, 2025, the District’s Internal Service Fund had a deficit net position of \$134,041.64. The deficit is due to high claims and estimated claims liability accrual. The District will examine all aspects of the program, including analyzing all costs, to restore the net position to a favorable position.

IV. DETAILED NOTES ON ALL ACTIVITIES AND FUNDS

A. Cash Deposits with Financial Institutions

Custodial Credit Risk. In the case of deposits, this is the risk that, in the event of the failure of a depository financial institution, the District will not be able to recover deposits or will not be able to recover collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The District does not have a policy for custodial credit risk. All bank balances of the District are fully insured or collateralized as required by Chapter 280, Florida Statutes. Certificates of deposit will be placed in the provider’s

safekeeping department for the term of the deposit. The certificate of deposit totaling \$2,458,356.29 is held in a bank qualified as a public depository under Florida law.

B. Investments

The District's investments at June 30, 2025, are reported as follows:

<u>Investments</u>	<u>Maturities</u>	<u>Fair Value</u>
SBA:		
Florida PRIME (1)	47 Days Weighted Average	\$ 206,399.78
Certificate of Deposit	October 2025	<u>2,458,356.29</u>
Total Investments		<u>\$ 2,664,756.07</u>

(1) This investment is reported as a cash equivalent for financial statement reporting purposes.

Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. The District's investment policy limits the length of investments as follows: (1) investments of current operating funds to 24 months; (2) investments of bond reserves, construction funds, and other nonoperating funds shall have a term appropriate for the need for the funds and in accordance with debt covenants, but in no event shall exceed 5 years; (3) investments of construction proceeds of tax-exempt debt issues shall not exceed the shorter of three years or the projected completion date for which they are invested; and (4) maturities of the underlying securities of a repurchase agreement will follow the requirements of the master repurchase agreements.

Florida PRIME uses a weighted average days to maturity (WAM). A portfolio's WAM reflects the average maturity in days based on final maturity or reset date, in the case of floating rate instruments. WAM measures the sensitivity of the portfolio to interest rate changes.

For Florida PRIME, with regard to redemption gates, Section 218.409(8)(a), Florida Statutes, states, "The principal, and any part thereof, of each account constituting the trust fund is subject to payment at any time from the moneys in the trust fund. However, the executive director may, in good faith, on the occurrence of an event that has a material impact on liquidity or operations of the trust fund, for 48 hours limit contributions to or withdrawals from the trust fund to ensure that the board [State Board of Administration] can invest moneys entrusted to it in exercising its fiduciary responsibility. Such action must be immediately disclosed to all participants, the trustees, the Joint Legislative Auditing Committee, and the Investment Advisory Council. The trustees shall convene an emergency meeting as soon as practicable from the time the executive director has instituted such measures and review the necessity of those measures. If the trustees are unable to convene an emergency meeting before the expiration of the 48-hour moratorium on contributions and withdrawals, the moratorium may be extended by the executive director until the trustees are able to meet to review the necessity for the moratorium. If the trustees agree with such measures, the trustees shall vote to continue the measures for up to an additional 15 days. The trustees must convene and vote to continue any such measures before the expiration of the time limit set, but in no case may the time limit set by the trustees exceed 15 days." As of June 30, 2025, there were no redemption fees, maximum transaction amounts, or any other requirements that serve to limit a participant's daily access to 100 percent of their account value.

Credit Risk

Credit risk is the risk that an issuer or other counterparty to an investment will not fulfill its obligations. Section 218.415(17), Florida Statutes, limits investments to the Local Government Surplus Funds Trust Fund [Florida PRIME], or any intergovernmental investment pool authorized pursuant to the Florida Interlocal Cooperation Act as provided in Section 163.01, Florida Statutes; Securities and Exchange Commission registered money market funds with the highest credit quality rating from a nationally recognized rating agency; interest-bearing time deposits or savings accounts in qualified public depositories, as defined in Section 280.02, Florida Statutes; and direct obligations of the United States Treasury. The District's investment policy further limits investments to repurchase agreements set forth by the District's master repurchase agreement secured by the collateral composed of negotiable direct obligations of the United States Government, United States Government Agencies, and Federal instrumentalities that have a market value of 102 percent of the value of the repurchase agreement; commercial paper rated Prime-1 by Moody's and A-1 by Standard & Poor's, or if backed by a letter of credit the long-term debt of the line of credit provider must be rated A or better by at least two nationally recognized rating agencies; bankers acceptances rated at least Prime-1 by Moody's and A-1 by Standard & Poor's; and any intergovernmental investment pool authorized pursuant to the Florida Interlocal Cooperation Act as provided in Section 163.01, Florida Statutes, provided that said fund contain no derivatives.

The District's investment in Florida PRIME is rated AAAm by Standard & Poor's.

C. Changes in Capital Assets

Changes in capital assets are presented in the following table:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Deletions	Ending Balance
GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES				
Capital Assets Not Being Depreciated:				
Land	\$ 2,346,533.63	\$ 33,820.57	\$ -	\$ 2,380,354.20
Land Improvements	241,975.09	-	-	241,975.09
Construction in Progress	1,425,914.54	913,765.73	1,778,404.18	561,276.09
Total Capital Assets Not Being Depreciated	<u>4,014,423.26</u>	<u>947,586.30</u>	<u>1,778,404.18</u>	<u>3,183,605.38</u>
Capital Assets Being Depreciated:				
Improvements Other Than Buildings	7,030,296.67	129,534.85	-	7,159,831.52
Buildings and Fixed Equipment	89,860,587.85	2,058,099.47	191,650.00	91,727,037.32
Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment	5,532,709.97	714,420.07	237,095.65	6,010,034.39
Motor Vehicles	6,269,610.88	361,386.09	321,583.29	6,309,413.68
Computer Software	1,457,848.80	-	82,244.13	1,375,604.67
Total Capital Assets Being Depreciated	<u>110,151,054.17</u>	<u>3,263,440.48</u>	<u>832,573.07</u>	<u>112,581,921.58</u>
Less Accumulated Depreciation for:				
Improvements Other Than Buildings	5,481,762.70	161,185.41	-	5,642,948.11
Buildings and Fixed Equipment	45,586,152.36	1,746,658.83	191,650.00	47,141,161.19
Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment	3,354,919.40	560,076.89	237,095.65	3,677,900.64
Motor Vehicles	4,206,387.61	400,716.33	321,583.29	4,285,520.65
Computer Software	958,451.65	166,995.88	82,244.13	1,043,203.40
Total Accumulated Depreciation	<u>59,587,673.72</u>	<u>3,035,633.34</u>	<u>832,573.07</u>	<u>61,790,733.99</u>
Total Capital Assets Being Depreciated, Net	<u>50,563,380.45</u>	<u>227,807.14</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>50,791,187.59</u>
Governmental Activities Capital Assets, Net	<u>\$ 54,577,803.71</u>	<u>\$ 1,175,393.44</u>	<u>\$ 1,778,404.18</u>	<u>\$ 53,974,792.97</u>

Depreciation expense was charged to functions as follows:

<u>Function</u>	<u>Amount</u>
GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES	
Instruction	\$ 720,166.71
Student Personnel Services	32,641.21
Instructional Media Services	210,669.89
Instructional Staff Training Services	3,835.84
General Administration	2,863.67
School Administration	25,726.01
Fiscal Services	15,509.74
Food Services	239,250.79
Central Services	23,156.17
Student Transportation Services	375,978.72
Operation of Plant	20,490.65
Maintenance of Plant	101,714.40
Unallocated	<u>1,263,629.54</u>
Total Depreciation Expense – Governmental Activities	<u>\$ 3,035,633.34</u>

D. Retirement Plans

1. FRS – Defined Benefit Pension Plans

General Information about the FRS

The FRS was created in Chapter 121, Florida Statutes, to provide a defined benefit pension plan for participating public employees. The FRS was amended in 1998 to add the Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) under the defined benefit plan and amended in 2000 to provide a defined contribution plan alternative to the defined benefit plan for FRS members effective July 1, 2002. This integrated defined contribution pension plan is the FRS Investment Plan. Chapter 112, Florida Statutes, established the Retiree HIS Program, a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan, to assist retired members of any State-administered retirement system in paying the costs of health insurance.

Essentially all regular employees of the District are eligible to enroll as members of the State-administered FRS. Provisions relating to the FRS are established by Chapters 121 and 122, Florida Statutes; Chapter 112, Part IV, Florida Statutes; Chapter 238, Florida Statutes; and FRS Rules, Chapter 60S, Florida Administrative Code; wherein eligibility, contributions, and benefits are defined and described in detail. Such provisions may be amended at any time by further action from the Florida Legislature. The FRS is a single retirement system administered by the Florida Department of Management Services, Division of Retirement, and consists of the two cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit plans and other nonintegrated programs. An annual comprehensive financial report of the FRS, which includes its financial statements, required supplementary information, actuarial report, and other relevant information, is available from the Florida Department of Management Services Web site (www.dms.myflorida.com).

The District's FRS and HIS pension expense totaled \$3,034,839 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025.

FRS Pension Plan

Plan Description. The FRS Pension Plan (Plan) is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan, with a DROP for eligible employees. The general classes of membership are:

- *Regular* – Members of the FRS who do not qualify for membership in the other classes.
- *Elected County Officers* – Members who hold specified elective offices in local government.
- *Senior Management Service* – Members in senior management level positions.

Employees enrolled in the Plan prior to July 1, 2011, vest at 6 years of creditable service and employees enrolled in the Plan on or after July 1, 2011, vest at 8 years of creditable service. All vested members, enrolled prior to July 1, 2011, are eligible for normal retirement benefits at age 62 or at any age after 30 years of service. All members enrolled in the Plan on or after July 1, 2011, once vested, are eligible for normal retirement benefits at age 65 or any time after 33 years of creditable service. Employees enrolled in the Plan may include up to 4 years of credit for military service toward creditable service. The Plan also includes an early retirement provision; however, there is a benefit reduction for each year a member retires before his or her normal retirement date. The Plan provides retirement, disability, death benefits, and annual cost-of-living adjustments to eligible participants.

The DROP, subject to provisions of Section 121.091, Florida Statutes, permits employees eligible for normal retirement under the Plan to defer receipt of monthly benefit payments while continuing employment with an FRS participating employer. An employee may participate in DROP for a period not to exceed 96 months after electing to participate, except that certain instructional personnel may participate for up to 120 months. During the period of DROP participation, deferred monthly benefits are held in the FRS Trust Fund and accrue interest. The net pension liability does not include amounts for DROP participants, as these members are considered retired and are not accruing additional pension benefits.

Benefits Provided. Benefits under the Plan are computed on the basis of age and/or years of service, average final compensation, and service credit. Credit for each year of service is expressed as a percentage of the average final compensation. For members initially enrolled before July 1, 2011, the average final compensation is the average of the 5 highest fiscal years' earnings; for members initially enrolled on or after July 1, 2011, the average final compensation is the average of the 8 highest fiscal years' earnings. The total percentage value of the benefit received is determined by calculating the total value of all service, which is based on the retirement class to which the member belonged when the service credit was earned. Members are eligible for in-line-of-duty or regular disability and survivors' benefits. The following table shows the percentage value for each year of service credit earned:

<u>Class, Initial Enrollment, and Retirement Age/Years of Service</u>	<u>Percent Value</u>
Regular Members Initially Enrolled Before July 1, 2011	
Retirement up to age 62 or up to 30 years of service	1.60
Retirement at age 63 or with 31 years of service	1.63
Retirement at age 64 or with 32 years of service	1.65
Retirement at age 65 or with 33 or more years of service	1.68
Regular Members Initially Enrolled On or After July 1, 2011	
Retirement up to age 65 or up to 33 years of service	1.60
Retirement at age 66 or with 34 years of service	1.63
Retirement at age 67 or with 35 years of service	1.65
Retirement at age 68 or with 36 or more years of service	1.68
Elected County Officers	3.00
Senior Management Service	2.00

As provided in Section 121.101, Florida Statutes, if the member was initially enrolled in the Plan before July 1, 2011, and all service credit was accrued before July 1, 2011, the annual cost-of-living adjustment is 3 percent per year. If the member was initially enrolled before July 1, 2011, and has service credit on or after July 1, 2011, there is an individually calculated cost-of-living adjustment. The annual cost-of-living adjustment is a proportion of 3 percent determined by dividing the sum of the pre-July 2011 service credit by the total service credit at retirement multiplied by 3 percent. Plan members initially enrolled on or after July 1, 2011, will not have a cost-of-living adjustment after retirement.

Contributions. The Florida Legislature establishes contribution rates for participating employers and employees. Contribution rates during the 2024-25 fiscal year were as follows:

<u>Class</u>	<u>Percent of Gross Salary</u>	
	<u>Employee</u>	<u>Employer (1)</u>
FRS, Regular	3.00	13.63
FRS, Elected County Officers	3.00	58.68
FRS, Senior Management Service	3.00	34.52
DROP – Applicable to Members from All of the Above Classes	0.00	21.13
FRS, Reemployed Retiree	(2)	(2)

(1) Employer rates include 2 percent for the postemployment health insurance subsidy. Also, employer rates, other than for DROP participants, include 0.06 percent for administrative costs of the Investment Plan.

(2) Contribution rates are dependent upon retirement class in which reemployed.

The District’s contributions to the Plan totaled \$2,766,257 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025.

Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions. At June 30, 2025, the District reported a liability of \$20,736,267 for its proportionate share of the Plan’s net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2024, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2024. The District’s proportionate share of the net pension liability was based on the District’s 2023-24 fiscal year contributions

relative to the total 2023-24 fiscal year contributions of all participating members. At June 30, 2024, the District's proportionate share was 0.053603274 percent, which was a decrease of 0.003258207 from its proportionate share measured as of June 30, 2023.

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, the District recognized a Plan pension expense of \$2,847,764. In addition, the District reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Deferred Outflows of Resources</u>	<u>Deferred Inflows of Resources</u>
Differences Between Expected and Actual Experience	\$ 2,094,920	\$ -
Change of Assumptions	2,842,095	-
Net Difference Between Projected and Actual Earnings on FRS Pension Plan Investments	-	1,378,240
Changes in Proportion and Differences Between District FRS Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	552,300	1,568,059
District FRS Contributions Subsequent to the Measurement Date	<u>2,766,257</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>\$ 8,255,572</u>	<u>\$ 2,946,299</u>

The deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from District contributions to the Plan subsequent to the measurement date, totaling \$2,766,257, will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the fiscal year ending 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:

<u>Fiscal Year Ending June 30</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2026	\$ (575,643)
2027	3,302,097
2028	(89,158)
2029	(223,542)
2030	<u>129,262</u>
Total	<u>\$ 2,543,016</u>

Actuarial Assumptions. The total pension liability in the July 1, 2024, actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Inflation	2.40 percent
Salary Increases	3.50 percent, average, including inflation
Investment Rate of Return	6.70 percent, net of pension plan investment expense, including inflation

Salary increases were changed from 3.25 percent in the previous valuation to 3.50 percent.

Mortality rates were based on the PUB-2010 base table, projected generationally with Scale MP-2021. This is a change from the previous valuation in which the mortality rates were based on the PUB-2010 base table, projected generationally with Scale MP-2018.

The actuarial assumptions used in the July 1, 2024, valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2023.

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was not based on historical returns but instead is based on a forward-looking capital market economic model. The allocation policy's description of each asset class was used to map the target allocation to the asset classes shown below. Each asset class assumption is based on a consistent set of underlying assumptions and includes an adjustment for the inflation assumption. The target allocation and best estimates of arithmetic and geometric real rates of return for each major asset class are summarized in the following table:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation (1)</u>	<u>Annual Arithmetic Return</u>	<u>Compound Annual (Geometric) Return</u>	<u>Standard Deviation</u>
Cash	1.0%	3.3%	3.3%	1.1%
Fixed Income	29.0%	5.7%	5.6%	3.9%
Global Equity	45.0%	8.6%	7.0%	18.2%
Real Estate	12.0%	8.1%	6.8%	16.6%
Private Equity	11.0%	12.4%	8.8%	28.4%
Strategic Investments	2.0%	6.6%	6.2%	8.7%
Total	100%			
Assumed inflation - Mean			2.4%	1.5%

(1) As outlined in the Plan's investment policy.

Discount Rate. The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 6.7 percent. The Plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current active and inactive employees. Therefore, the discount rate for calculating the total pension liability is equal to the long-term expected rate of return. The discount rate used in the 2024 valuation was unchanged from the previous valuation.

Sensitivity of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate. The following presents the District's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 6.7 percent, as well as what the 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 (5.7 percent) or 1 percentage point higher (7.7 percent) than the current rate:

	<u>1% Decrease (5.7%)</u>	<u>Current Discount Rate (6.7%)</u>	<u>1% Increase (7.7%)</u>
District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 36,474,368	\$ 20,736,267	\$ 7,552,270

Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position. Detailed information about the Plan's fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued FRS Pension Plan and Other State Administered Systems Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

HIS Pension Plan

Plan Description. The HIS Pension Plan (HIS Plan) is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan established under Section 112.363, Florida Statutes, and may be amended by the Florida Legislature at any time. The benefit is a monthly payment to assist retirees of State-administered retirement systems in paying their health insurance costs and is administered by the Florida Department of Management Services, Division of Retirement.

Benefits Provided. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, eligible retirees and beneficiaries received a monthly HIS payment of \$7.50 for each year of creditable service completed at the time of retirement, with a minimum HIS payment of \$45 and a maximum HIS payment of \$225 per month, pursuant to Section 112.363, Florida Statutes. To be eligible to receive a HIS Plan benefit, a retiree under a State-administered retirement system must provide proof of health insurance coverage, which may include Federal Medicare.

Contributions. The HIS Plan is funded by required contributions from FRS participating employers as set by the Florida Legislature. Employer contributions are a percentage of gross compensation for all active FRS members. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, the contribution rate was 2 percent of payroll pursuant to Section 112.363, Florida Statutes. The District contributed 100 percent of its statutorily required contributions for the current and preceding 3 years. HIS Plan contributions are deposited in a separate trust fund from which payments are authorized. HIS Plan benefits are not guaranteed and are subject to annual legislative appropriation. In the event the legislative appropriation or available funds fail to provide full subsidy benefits to all participants, benefits may be reduced or canceled.

The District's contributions to the HIS Plan totaled \$545,331 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025.

Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions. At June 30, 2025, the District reported a net pension liability of \$10,446,062 for its proportionate share of the HIS Plan's net pension liability. The current portion of the net pension liability is the District's proportionate share of benefit payments expected to be paid within 1 year, net of the District's proportionate share of the HIS Plan's fiduciary net position available to pay that amount. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2024, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2024. The District's proportionate share of the net pension liability was based on the District's 2023-24 fiscal year contributions relative to the total 2023-24 fiscal year contributions of all participating members. At June 30, 2024, the District's proportionate share was 0.069635881 percent, which was a decrease of 0.003955988 from its proportionate share measured as of June 30, 2023.

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, the District recognized the HIS Plan pension expense of \$187,075. In addition, the District reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Deferred Outflows of Resources</u>	<u>Deferred Inflows of Resources</u>
Differences Between Expected and Actual Experience	\$ 100,864	\$ 20,058
Change of Assumptions	184,871	1,236,680
Net Difference Between Projected and Actual Earnings on HIS Pension Plan Investments	-	3,778
Changes in Proportion and Differences Between District HIS Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	79,162	1,019,490
District HIS Contributions Subsequent to the Measurement Date	545,331	-
Total	\$ 910,228	\$ 2,280,006

The deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from District contributions to the HIS Plan subsequent to the measurement date, totaling \$545,331, will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the fiscal year ending 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:

<u>Fiscal Year Ending June 30</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2026	\$ (397,119)
2027	(426,053)
2028	(447,428)
2029	(354,422)
2030	(228,506)
Thereafter	(61,581)
Total	\$ (1,915,109)

Actuarial Assumptions. The total pension liability in the July 1, 2024, actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Inflation	2.40 percent
Salary Increases	3.50 percent, average, including inflation
Municipal Bond Rate	3.93 percent

Salary increases were changed from 3.25 percent in the previous valuation to 3.50 percent.

Mortality rates were based on the PUB-2010 base table, projected generationally with Scale MP-2021. This is a change from the previous valuation in which the mortality rates were based on the PUB-2010 base table, projected generationally with Scale MP-2018.

While an experience study had not been completed for the HIS Plan, the actuarial assumptions that determined the total pension liability for the HIS Plan were based on certain results of the most recent experience study for the FRS Plan.

Discount Rate. The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 3.93 percent. In general, the discount rate for calculating the total pension liability is equal to the single rate equivalent to discounting at the long-term expected rate of return for benefit payments prior to the projected depletion date. Because the HIS benefit is essentially funded on a pay-as-you-go basis, the depletion date is considered to be immediate, and the single equivalent discount rate is equal to the municipal bond rate selected by the HIS Plan sponsor. The Bond Buyer General Obligation 20-Bond Municipal Bond Index was adopted as the applicable municipal bond index. The discount rate changed from 3.65 percent to 3.93 percent.

Sensitivity of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate. The following presents the District's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 3.93 percent, as well as what the 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 (2.93 percent) or 1 percentage point higher (4.93 percent) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease (2.93%)	Current Discount Rate (3.93%)	1% Increase (4.93%)
District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 11,891,499	\$ 10,446,062	\$ 9,246,116

Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position. Detailed information about the HIS Plan's fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued FRS Pension Plan and Other State Administered Systems Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

2. FRS – Defined Contribution Pension Plan

The SBA administers the defined contribution plan officially titled the FRS Investment Plan (Investment Plan). The Investment Plan is reported in the SBA's annual financial statements and in the State's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

As provided in Section 121.4501, Florida Statutes, eligible FRS members may elect to participate in the Investment Plan in lieu of the FRS defined benefit plan. District employees participating in DROP are not eligible to participate in the Investment Plan. Employer and employee contributions, including amounts contributed to individual member's accounts, are defined by law, but the ultimate benefit depends in part on the performance of investment funds. Retirement benefits are based upon the value of the member's account upon retirement. Benefit terms, including contribution requirements, for the Investment Plan are established and may be amended by the Florida Legislature. The Investment Plan is funded with the same employer and employee contribution rates that are based on salary and membership class (Regular, Elected County Officers, etc.), as the FRS defined benefit plan. Contributions are directed to individual member accounts, and the individual members allocate contributions and account balances among various

approved investment choices. Costs of administering the Investment Plan, including the FRS Financial Guidance Program, are funded through an employer contribution of 0.06 percent of payroll and by forfeited benefits of Investment Plan members. Allocations to the Investment Plan member accounts during the 2024-25 fiscal year were as follows:

<u>Class</u>	<u>Percent of Gross Compensation</u>
FRS, Regular	11.30
FRS, Elected County Officers	16.34
FRS, Senior Management Service	12.67

For all membership classes, employees are immediately vested in their own contributions and are vested after 1 year of service for employer contributions and investment earnings, regardless of membership class. If an accumulated benefit obligation for service credit originally earned under the FRS Pension Plan is transferred to the Investment Plan, the member must have the years of service required for FRS Pension Plan vesting (including the service credit represented by the transferred funds) to be vested for these funds and the earnings on the funds. Nonvested employer contributions are placed in a suspense account for up to 5 years. If the employee returns to FRS-covered employment within the 5-year period, the employee will regain control over their account. If the employee does not return within the 5-year period, the employee will forfeit the accumulated account balance. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, the information for the amount of forfeitures was unavailable from the SBA; however, management believes that these amounts, if any, would be immaterial to the District.

After termination and applying to receive benefits, the member may rollover vested funds to another qualified plan, structure a periodic payment under the Investment Plan, receive a lump-sum distribution, leave the funds invested for future distribution, or any combination of these options. Disability coverage is provided in which the member may either transfer the account balance to the FRS Pension Plan when approved for disability retirement to receive guaranteed lifetime monthly benefits under the FRS Pension Plan or remain in the Investment Plan and rely upon that account balance for retirement income.

The District's Investment Plan pension expense totaled \$948,837 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025.

E. Other Postemployment Benefit Obligations

Plan Description. The Other Postemployment Benefits Plan (OPEB Plan) is a single-employer defined benefit plan administered by the District that provides OPEB for all employees who satisfy the District's retirement eligibility provisions. Pursuant to Section 112.0801, Florida Statutes, former employees who retire from the District are eligible to participate in the District's health and hospitalization plan for medical, prescription drug, dental, and life insurance coverage. Retirees and their eligible dependents shall be offered the same health and hospitalization insurance coverage as is offered to active employees at a premium cost of no more than the premium cost applicable to active employees. The District subsidizes the premium rates paid by retirees by allowing them to participate in the OPEB Plan at reduced or blended group (implicitly subsidized) premium rates for

both active and retired employees. These rates provide an implicit subsidy for retirees because retiree healthcare costs are generally greater than active employee healthcare costs. The OPEB Plan contribution requirements and benefit terms of the District and the OPEB Plan members are established and may be amended through recommendations of the Insurance Committee and action from the Board. No assets are accumulated in a trust that meets the criteria in paragraph 4 of GASB Statement No. 75.

Benefits Provided. The OPEB Plan provides healthcare and life insurance benefits for retirees and their dependents. The OPEB Plan only provides an implicit subsidy as described above. Medicare eligible retirees are required to enroll in the Federal Medicare program for their primary coverage as soon as they are eligible.

Employees Covered by Benefit Terms. At June 30, 2024, the following employees were covered by the benefit terms:

Inactive Employees or Beneficiaries Currently Receiving Benefits	234
Active Employees	623
Total	<u>857</u>

Total OPEB Liability. The District's total OPEB liability of \$2,384,342 was measured as of June 30, 2024, and was determined by an actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2024.

Actuarial Assumptions and Other Inputs. The total OPEB liability was determined using the following actuarial assumptions and other inputs, applied to all periods included in the measurement, unless otherwise specified:

Inflation	2.5 percent
Salary Increases	3.65 to 6.35 percent, average, including inflation
Discount Rate	3.93 percent
Healthcare Cost Trend Rates	Based on the Getzen Model, with a trend rate starting at 7 percent for 2024 and then gradually decreasing to an ultimate trend of 4 percent over a 25-year period.
Aging Factors	Based on the 2013 SOA Study "Health Care Costs – From Birth to Death."
Expenses	Administrative expenses are included in the per capita health costs.

For plans that do not have formal assets, the discount rate should equal the tax-exempt municipal bond rate based on an index of 20-year general obligation bonds with an average AA credit rating as of the measurement date. For the purpose of this actuarial valuation, the municipal bond rate is 3.93 percent (based on the daily rate of Bond Buyer's "20-Bond GO Index" index closest to but not later than the measurement date).

Demographic assumptions employed in the actuarial valuation were the same as those employed in the July 1, 2024, actuarial valuation of the FRS Defined Benefit Pension Plan. These demographic assumptions were developed by FRS from an actuarial experience study and therefore are appropriate for use in the OPEB Plan actuarial valuation. These include assumed rates of future termination, mortality, disability, and retirement. In addition, salary increase assumptions (for

development of the pattern of the normal cost increases) were the same as those used in the July 1, 2024, actuarial valuation of the FRS Defined Benefit Pension Plan. Assumptions used in valuation of benefits for participants of the FRS Investment Plan are the same as for similarly situated participants of the FRS Defined Benefit Pension Plan.

Changes in the Total OPEB Liability.

	<u>Amount</u>
Balance at June 30, 2024	<u>\$ 2,291,656</u>
Changes for the year:	
Service Cost	83,654
Interest	89,906
Differences Between Expected and Actual Experience	41,768
Changes of Assumptions or Other Inputs	(30,367)
Benefit Payments	<u>(92,275)</u>
Net Changes	<u>92,686</u>
Balance at June 30, 2025	<u><u>\$ 2,384,342</u></u>

The changes of assumptions or other inputs was based on the following:

- The discount rate was changed from 3.86 percent to 3.93 percent.
- The medical claims costs and premiums were updated based on actual claims experience and premium information provided for the valuation.
- The trend rates of healthcare cost increases were revised.
- The rate of coverage acceptance for retiring employees was lowered from 30 percent to 20 percent.
- The mortality, withdrawal, disability, salary increase, retirement, and DROP entry rates were updated to align with the FRS July 1, 2024, actuarial valuation, which were based on the results of a statewide experience study covering the period of 2018 through 2023.

Sensitivity of the Total OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate. The following table presents the total OPEB liability of the District, as well as what the District’s total OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1 percentage point lower (2.93 percent) or 1 percentage point higher (4.93 percent) than the current rate:

	<u>1% Decrease (2.93%)</u>	<u>Current Discount Rate (3.93%)</u>	<u>1% Increase (4.93%)</u>
Total OPEB Liability	\$ 2,631,511	\$ 2,384,342	\$ 2,167,252

Sensitivity of the Total OPEB Liability to Changes in the Healthcare Cost Trend Rates. The following table presents the total OPEB liability of the District, as well as what the District’s total 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:

	Healthcare Cost Trend		
	<u>1% Decrease</u>	<u>Rates</u>	<u>1% Increase</u>
Total OPEB Liability	\$ 2,159,494	\$ 2,384,342	\$ 2,654,810

OPEB Expense and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, the District recognized OPEB expense of \$5,093. At June 30, 2025, the District reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Deferred Outflows of Resources</u>	<u>Deferred Inflows of Resources</u>
Differences Between Expected and Actual Experience	\$ 37,506	\$ 204,881
Changes of Assumptions or Other Inputs	265,710	507,738
Benefits Paid Subsequent to the Measurement Date	89,687	-
Total	\$ 392,903	\$ 712,619

The deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB resulting from benefits paid subsequent to the measurement date, totaling \$89,687, will be recognized as a reduction of the total OPEB liability in the fiscal year ending 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:

<u>Fiscal Year Ending June 30</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2026	\$ (165,550)
2027	(136,369)
2028	(61,564)
2029	(80,787)
2030	(4,669)
Thereafter	39,536
Total	\$ (409,403)

F. Other Significant Commitments

Encumbrances. Appropriations in governmental funds are encumbered upon issuance of purchase orders for goods and services. Even though appropriations lapse at the end of the fiscal year, unfilled purchase orders of the current year are carried forward and the next fiscal year's appropriations are likewise encumbered.

The following is a schedule of encumbrances at June 30, 2025:

<u>Major Funds</u>					
<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue - Food Service</u>	<u>Special Revenue - Other</u>	<u>Capital Projects - Local Capital Improvement</u>	<u>Nonmajor Governmental Funds</u>	<u>Total Governmental Funds</u>
\$ 694,087.23	\$ 373,449.56	\$ 47,528.75	\$1,101,983.20	\$ 22,775.00	\$2,239,823.74

G. Risk Management Programs

The District is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; third party injuries and/or property damage and natural disasters. The District is a member of the South Central Educational Risk Management Program (SCERMP), a consortium under which seven district school boards have established a public entity risk sharing pool for property protection, general liability, automobile liability, workers' compensation, government crime and other coverage deemed necessary by the members of the SCERMP. Section 1001.42(12)(k), Florida Statutes, provides the authority for the District to enter into such risk management program. The interlocal agreement and bylaws of the SCERMP provide that risk of loss is transferred to the consortium. The SCERMP is self-sustaining through member assessments (premiums) and purchases coverage through commercial companies for claims in excess of specified amounts. Member school boards are also subject to supplemental contributions in the event of a deficiency, except to the extent that the deficiency results from a specific claim against a member school board in excess of coverage available, then such deficiency is solely the responsibility of that member school board.

The Board of Directors for the SCERMP is composed of superintendents, finance directors, or authorized representatives of all participating districts. Relation Insurance Services serves as the third-party administrator, insurance broker, and fiscal agent for the SCERMP.

Property damage coverage is managed by the SCERMP by purchase of excess property coverage through commercial insurance carriers for property loss claims in excess of \$100,000 (except named wind and flood). The named windstorm and hurricane deductible is 5 percent of replacement cost value with a minimum of \$100,000 per occurrence and a maximum of \$100 million per occurrence. The deductible for all other windstorm and hail events is \$100,000. Special hazard flood area deductibles are \$500,000 per building and \$500,000 contents plus \$100,000 time element per occurrence. The flood deductible outside a special flood hazard area is \$100,000. The SCERMP's purchased excess property loss limit during the 2024-25 fiscal year was \$100 million.

Workers' compensation claims are limited based on a per claim self-insured retention. The self-insured retention for the 2024-25 fiscal year was \$1 million. The SCERMP purchases excess liability coverage through a commercial insurance carrier which covers workers' compensation losses in excess of the self-insured retention. Employers Liability is included subject to \$2 million per occurrence.

The District is protected by Section 768.28, Florida Statutes, under the Doctrine of Sovereign Immunity, as it is now written, as it may be amended by the Florida Legislature at future dates, which effectively limits the amount of liability of governmental entities for tort claims to \$200,000 per claim and \$300,000 per occurrence.

Life insurance in the amount of \$25,000 is purchased by the District for eligible employees. These transactions are accounted for in the governmental funds. The District's health insurance program for its employees is provided on a self-insured basis up to specific limits. The District has entered into an agreement with an insurance company to provide specific coverage of the claims above \$175,000 on an individual basis. The District has contracted with an insurance administrator to

administer the self-insurance program, including the processing, investigating, and payment of claims.

At June 30, 2025, a liability in the amount of \$1,154,500 was determined by the insurance administrator to cover estimated incurred by not reported insurance claims payable.

The following schedule represents the changes in claims liability for the past 2 fiscal years for the District's self-insurance program:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Beginning of Fiscal Year Liability</u>	<u>Current Year Claims and Changes in Estimates</u>	<u>Claims Payments</u>	<u>Balance at Fiscal Year End</u>
2023-24	\$ -	\$ 4,074,978.64	\$ (3,653,978.64)	\$ 421,000.00
2024-25	421,000.00	7,286,304.13	(6,552,804.13)	1,154,500.00

Settled claims resulting from these risks have not exceeded commercial coverage in any of the past 3 fiscal years.

H. Long-Term Liabilities

1. Bonds Payable

Bonds payable at June 30, 2025, are as follows:

<u>Bond Type</u>	<u>Amount Outstanding</u>	<u>Interest Rates (Percent)</u>	<u>Annual Maturity To</u>
District Revenue Bonds: Series 2009	\$ 1,505,000	4.75 - 5.40	2035

The various bonds were issued to finance capital outlay projects of the District. The following is a description of the bonded debt issues:

District Revenue Bonds

These bonds are authorized by Chapter 78-517, Laws of Florida, which provides that the bonds be secured from the pari-mutuel tax proceeds distributed annually to Hardee County from the State's Pari-Mutuel Tax Collection Trust Fund (pledged revenues) pursuant to Chapter 550, Florida Statutes (effective July 1, 2000, tax proceeds were distributed pursuant to Section 212.20(6)(d)7.a., Florida Statutes (2001), now Section 212.20(6)(d)6.a., Florida Statutes. The annual distribution is remitted by the Florida Department of Financial Services to the Hardee County Board of Commissioners who then remit the distribution to the District.

The District has pledged a total of \$1,985,768.75 of sales tax revenues in connection with the District Revenue Bonds of 2009, described above. During the 2024-25 fiscal year, the District recognized sales tax revenues totaling \$187,375 and expended \$180,627.50 (96 percent) of these revenues for debt service directly collateralized by these revenues. The pledged sales tax revenues are committed until final maturity of the debt, or November 1, 2035. Approximately

96 percent of this revenue stream has been pledged in connection with debt service on the revenue bonds.

Annual requirements to amortize all bonded debt outstanding as of June 30, 2025, are as follows:

<u>Fiscal Year Ending June 30</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>
District Revenue Bonds:			
2026	\$ 180,833.75	\$ 105,000.00	\$ 75,833.75
2027	180,658.75	110,000.00	70,658.75
2028	180,102.50	115,000.00	65,102.50
2029	179,227.50	120,000.00	59,227.50
2030	182,912.50	130,000.00	52,912.50
2031-2035	902,308.75	750,000.00	152,308.75
2036	179,725.00	175,000.00	4,725.00
Total District Revenue Bonds	<u>\$ 1,985,768.75</u>	<u>\$ 1,505,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 480,768.75</u>

2. Changes in Long-Term Liabilities

The following is a summary of changes in long-term liabilities:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Deductions</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>	<u>Due In One Year</u>
GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES					
Bonds Payable	\$ 1,605,000.00	\$ -	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 1,505,000.00	\$105,000.00
Compensated Absences Payable (1)	2,816,920.27	-	1,078,114.73	1,738,805.54	325,362.00
Net Pension Liability	34,344,870.00	10,723,653.00	13,886,194.00	31,182,329.00	36,358.00
Total OPEB Liability	2,291,656.00	215,328.00	122,642.00	2,384,342.00	89,687.00
Total Governmental Activities	<u>\$41,058,446.27</u>	<u>\$ 10,938,981.00</u>	<u>\$ 15,186,950.73</u>	<u>\$ 36,810,476.54</u>	<u>\$ 556,407.00</u>

(1) The change in compensated absences payable is presented as a net change.

For the governmental activities, pensions and other postemployment benefits are generally liquidated with resources of the General Fund.

I. Fund Balance Reporting

In addition to committed and assigned fund balance categories discussed in Note I.F.10., fund balances may be classified as follows:

- **Nonspendable Fund Balance**. Nonspendable fund balance is the net current financial resources that cannot be spent because they are either not in spendable form or are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. Generally, not in spendable form means that an item is not expected to be converted to cash.
- **Restricted Fund Balance**. Restricted fund balance is the portion of fund balance on which constraints have been placed by creditors, grantors, contributors, laws or regulations of other governments, constitutional provisions, or enabling legislation. Restricted fund balance places the most binding level of constraint on the use of fund balance.
- **Unassigned Fund Balance**. The unassigned fund balance is the portion of fund balance that is the residual classification for the General Fund. This balance represents amounts that have not been assigned to other funds and that have not been restricted, committed, or assigned for specific purposes.

J. Interfund Receivables and Payables

The following is a summary of interfund receivables and payables reported in the fund financial statements:

Funds	Interfund	
	Receivables	Payables
Major:		
General	\$ 1,159,714.76	\$ -
Special Revenue:		
Food Service	-	3,985.64
Other	-	1,155,729.12
Total	\$ 1,159,714.76	\$ 1,159,714.76

The interfund receivables in the General Fund represent \$23,821.91 for FRS contributions related to payrolls in June 2025 for Special Revenue – Food Service and Special Revenue – Other Funds, and a temporary cash shortage of \$1,135,892.85 in the Special Revenue – Other Fund. All interfund balances will be repaid within one year.

K. Revenues

1. Schedule of State Revenue Sources

The following is a schedule of the District’s State revenue sources for the 2024-25 fiscal year:

Source	Amount
Florida Education Finance Program	\$ 23,720,078.00
Categorical Educational Program - Class Size Reduction	4,235,891.00
Workforce Development Program	763,992.50
Schools and Libraries Universal Services Support Program (Erate)	408,443.94
Sales Tax Distribution	187,375.00
Motor Vehicle License Tax (Capital Outlay and Debt Service)	175,868.27
Voluntary Prekindergarten Program	161,847.14
Threat Management Coordinator Grant	55,000.00
Science of Reading Literacy and Tutoring Grant	40,207.83
School Recognition	37,618.00
Food Service Supplement	36,296.00
Miscellaneous	56,165.30
Total	\$ 29,878,782.98

Accounting policies relating to certain State revenue sources are described in Note I.G.2.

2. Property Taxes

The following is a summary of millages and taxes levied on the 2024 tax roll for the 2024-25 fiscal year:

	<u>Millages</u>	<u>Taxes Levied</u>
General Fund		
Nonvoted School Tax:		
Required Local Effort	3.036	\$ 9,195,364.81
Basic Discretionary Local Effort	0.748	2,265,524.66
Capital Projects - Local Capital Improvement Fund		
Nonvoted Tax:		
Local Capital Improvements	1.500	4,543,164.43
Total	<u>5.284</u>	<u>\$ 16,004,053.90</u>

L. Interfund Transfers

The following is a summary of interfund transfers reported in the fund financial statements:

<u>Funds</u>	<u>Interfund</u>	
	<u>Transfers In</u>	<u>Transfers Out</u>
Major:		
General	\$ 2,288,124.30	\$ 517,000.00
Capital Projects:		
Local Capital Improvement	-	2,288,124.30
Internal Service	517,000.00	-
Total	<u>\$ 2,805,124.30</u>	<u>\$ 2,805,124.30</u>

Interfund transfers consisted of transfers from the Capital Projects – Local Capital Improvement Fund to the General Fund to assist in funding maintenance operations of the District and reimburse for enterprise software and licensing. The transfers from the General Fund to the Self Insurance Fund as a supplemental premium contribution to cover high claims expenses.

OTHER REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Budgetary Comparison Schedule General and Major Special Revenue Funds For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025

	General Fund			Variance with Final Budget - Positive (Negative)
	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	
Revenues				
Intergovernmental:				
Federal Direct	\$ 92,126.00	\$ 92,126.00	\$ 92,109.99	\$ (16.01)
Federal Through State and Local	273,287.00	453,861.00	37,631.83	(416,229.17)
State	30,701,581.08	30,127,715.08	29,461,647.08	(666,068.00)
Local:				
Property Taxes	11,002,454.00	11,002,454.00	11,178,851.30	176,397.30
Charges for Services - Food Service	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	1,604,405.75	1,795,695.75	1,866,775.52	71,079.77
Total Local Revenues	12,606,859.75	12,798,149.75	13,045,626.82	247,477.07
Total Revenues	43,673,853.83	43,471,851.83	42,637,015.72	(834,836.11)
Expenditures				
Current - Education:				
Instruction	26,731,668.38	25,981,342.01	24,755,242.43	1,226,099.58
Student Support Services	2,635,235.25	2,689,664.23	2,664,745.77	24,918.46
Instructional Media Services	737,116.46	740,953.28	722,098.55	18,854.73
Instruction and Curriculum Development Services	437,524.00	508,021.21	473,592.25	34,428.96
Instructional Staff Training Services	278,269.00	269,721.10	262,214.73	7,506.37
Instruction-Related Technology	1,786,153.58	1,676,329.55	1,304,660.93	371,668.62
Board	448,310.00	518,922.00	487,685.36	31,236.64
General Administration	471,352.00	529,714.00	529,713.38	0.62
School Administration	2,423,218.00	2,583,267.60	2,583,267.02	0.58
Facilities Acquisition and Construction	439,904.95	537,952.95	7,223.00	530,729.95
Fiscal Services	507,025.00	570,957.00	554,863.50	16,093.50
Food Services	7,000.00	12,003.55	5,895.80	6,107.75
Central Services	483,023.71	555,681.19	550,022.22	5,658.97
Student Transportation Services	2,360,901.43	2,390,137.38	2,303,791.60	86,345.78
Operation of Plant	4,930,299.18	5,020,057.14	4,739,125.51	280,931.63
Maintenance of Plant	2,565,966.54	2,802,469.54	2,413,402.23	389,067.31
Administrative Technology Services	366,028.70	367,966.73	350,596.08	17,370.65
Community Services	288,172.00	312,636.00	312,635.33	0.67
Fixed Capital Outlay:				
Facilities Acquisition and Construction	-	528,734.00	528,733.27	0.73
Other Capital Outlay	-	348,743.00	348,742.78	0.22
Total Expenditures	47,897,168.18	48,945,273.46	45,898,251.74	3,047,021.72
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures	(4,223,314.35)	(5,473,421.63)	(3,261,236.02)	2,212,185.61
Other Financing Sources (Uses)				
Transfers In	2,581,513.00	2,801,969.04	2,288,124.30	(513,844.74)
Sale of Capital Assets	10,000.00	10,000.00	-	(10,000.00)
Loss Recoveries	6,000.00	60,134.00	57,940.95	(2,193.05)
Transfers Out	-	(737,456.04)	(517,000.00)	220,456.04
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	2,597,513.00	2,134,647.00	1,829,065.25	(305,581.75)
Net Change in Fund Balances	(1,625,801.35)	(3,338,774.63)	(1,432,170.77)	1,906,603.86
Fund Balances, Beginning	8,176,095.11	8,176,095.11	8,176,095.11	-
Fund Balances, Ending	\$ 6,550,293.76	\$ 4,837,320.48	\$ 6,743,924.34	\$ 1,906,603.86

Special Revenue - Food Service Fund

Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	Variance with Final Budget - Positive (Negative)
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
3,357,342.00	3,430,116.14	3,412,033.41	(18,082.73)
39,800.00	39,800.00	36,296.00	(3,504.00)
-	-	-	-
13,850.00	13,850.00	21,777.79	7,927.79
41,300.00	41,300.00	49,319.81	8,019.81
<u>55,150.00</u>	<u>55,150.00</u>	<u>71,097.60</u>	<u>15,947.60</u>
<u>3,452,292.00</u>	<u>3,525,066.14</u>	<u>3,519,427.01</u>	<u>(5,639.13)</u>
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
4,070,069.36	4,101,986.64	3,264,720.78	837,265.86
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	119,599.00	119,598.25	0.75
<u>4,070,069.36</u>	<u>4,221,585.64</u>	<u>3,384,319.03</u>	<u>837,266.61</u>
<u>(617,777.36)</u>	<u>(696,519.50)</u>	<u>135,107.98</u>	<u>831,627.48</u>
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	32,889.14	32,889.14
-	-	8,161.64	8,161.64
-	-	-	-
-	-	<u>41,050.78</u>	<u>41,050.78</u>
<u>(617,777.36)</u>	<u>(696,519.50)</u>	<u>176,158.76</u>	<u>872,678.26</u>
<u>1,714,070.10</u>	<u>1,714,070.10</u>	<u>1,714,070.10</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>\$ 1,096,292.74</u>	<u>\$ 1,017,550.60</u>	<u>\$ 1,890,228.86</u>	<u>\$ 872,678.26</u>

(Continued)

**Budgetary Comparison Schedule
General and Major Special Revenue Funds (Continued)
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025**

	Special Revenue - Other Fund			Variance with Final Budget - Positive (Negative)
	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	
Revenues				
Intergovernmental:				
Federal Through State and Local	\$ 5,707,406.24	\$ 5,720,360.46	\$ 4,754,006.72	\$ (966,353.74)
Expenditures				
Current - Education:				
Instruction	3,077,578.62	3,056,014.21	2,402,228.39	653,785.82
Student Support Services	1,338,406.50	1,313,397.59	1,222,207.94	91,189.65
Instructional Media Services	-	-	-	-
Instruction and Curriculum Development Services	538,866.19	548,574.75	531,316.17	17,258.58
Instructional Staff Training Services	456,233.30	485,228.54	374,055.91	111,172.63
Instruction-Related Technology	41,044.44	41,804.44	41,253.20	551.24
General Administration	178,539.85	176,986.93	154,591.02	22,395.91
School Administration	-	-	-	-
Facilities Acquisition and Construction	-	-	-	-
Fiscal Services	-	-	-	-
Food Services	-	-	-	-
Central Services	-	-	-	-
Student Transportation Services	76,737.34	93,289.00	23,289.09	69,999.91
Operation of Plant	-	-	-	-
Maintenance of Plant	-	-	-	-
Administrative Technology Services	-	-	-	-
Community Services	-	-	-	-
Fixed Capital Outlay:				
Facilities Acquisition and Construction	-	-	-	-
Other Capital Outlay	-	5,065.00	5,065.00	-
Total Expenditures	5,707,406.24	5,720,360.46	4,754,006.72	966,353.74
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures	-	-	-	-
Net Change in Fund Balances	-	-	-	-
Fund Balances, Beginning	-	-	-	-
Fund Balances, Ending	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

Special Revenue - Federal Education Stabilization Fund

<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Final Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance with Final Budget - Positive (Negative)</u>
\$ 4,777,954.11	\$ 3,453,454.29	\$ 2,855,165.01	\$ (598,289.28)
2,666,081.40	1,595,399.50	1,561,921.56	33,477.94
89,680.58	70,959.17	70,958.19	0.98
9,000.00	9,689.00	9,688.50	0.50
8,079.99	8,612.99	8,612.00	0.99
176,369.17	40,541.94	40,065.05	476.89
483,937.71	374,105.71	340,051.23	34,054.48
291,678.94	81,441.82	66,306.04	15,135.78
107,854.03	52,854.03	49,912.92	2,941.11
430,298.35	434,828.35	4,529.29	430,299.06
4,061.49	4,306.49	4,306.00	0.49
30,441.01	32,295.01	32,295.00	0.01
5,801.00	5,076.00	2,153.00	2,923.00
231,869.04	67,321.88	57,377.24	9,944.64
103,160.94	59,341.94	46,662.50	12,679.44
21,683.00	21,683.00	21,530.00	153.00
116,957.46	126,789.46	70,589.79	56,199.67
1,000.00	1,077.00	1,076.50	0.50
-	427,290.00	427,289.78	0.22
-	39,841.00	39,840.42	0.58
<u>4,777,954.11</u>	<u>3,453,454.29</u>	<u>2,855,165.01</u>	<u>598,289.28</u>
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
<u>\$ 0.00</u>	<u>\$ 0.00</u>	<u>\$ 0.00</u>	<u>\$ 0.00</u>

**Schedule of Changes in the District's
Total OPEB Liability and Related Ratios**

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Total OPEB Liability					
Service Cost	\$ 83,654	\$ 80,437	\$ 96,903	\$ 84,484	\$ 120,255
Interest	89,906	84,726	39,902	46,874	88,897
Differences Between Expected and Actual Experience	41,768	-	(5,842)	-	(349,638)
Changes of Assumptions or Other Inputs	(30,367)	(38,278)	207,431	100,418	(661,646)
Benefit Payments	<u>(92,275)</u>	<u>(101,786)</u>	<u>(106,372)</u>	<u>(51,989)</u>	<u>(126,035)</u>
Net Change in Total OPEB Liability	<u>92,686</u>	<u>25,099</u>	<u>232,022</u>	<u>179,787</u>	<u>(928,167)</u>
Total OPEB Liability - Beginning	<u>2,291,656</u>	<u>2,266,557</u>	<u>2,034,535</u>	<u>1,854,748</u>	<u>2,782,915</u>
Total OPEB Liability - Ending	<u>\$ 2,384,342</u>	<u>\$ 2,291,656</u>	<u>\$ 2,266,557</u>	<u>\$ 2,034,535</u>	<u>\$ 1,854,748</u>
Covered-Employee Payroll	\$ 26,413,622	\$ 26,536,013	\$ 25,763,119	\$ 25,560,402	\$ 24,877,511
Total OPEB Liability as a Percentage of Covered-Employee Payroll	9.03%	8.64%	8.80%	7.96%	7.46%
	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>		
Total OPEB Liability					
Service Cost	\$ 102,283	\$ 132,523	\$ 147,108		
Interest	92,759	115,640	99,047		
Differences Between Expected and Actual Experience	-	(183,300)	-		
Changes of Assumptions or Other Inputs	190,054	(577,565)	(208,978)		
Benefit Payments	<u>(124,596)</u>	<u>(161,355)</u>	<u>(171,208)</u>		
Net Change in Total OPEB Liability	<u>260,500</u>	<u>(674,057)</u>	<u>(134,031)</u>		
Total OPEB Liability - Beginning	<u>2,522,415</u>	<u>3,196,472</u>	<u>3,330,503</u>		
Total OPEB Liability - Ending	<u>\$ 2,782,915</u>	<u>\$ 2,522,415</u>	<u>\$ 3,196,472</u>		
Covered-Employee Payroll	\$ 26,309,625	\$ 25,791,613	\$ 24,614,404		
Total OPEB Liability as a Percentage of Covered-Employee Payroll	10.58%	9.78%	12.99%		

**Schedule of the District's Proportionate Share
of the Net Pension Liability –
Florida Retirement System Pension Plan (1)**

Fiscal Year Ending June 30	District's Proportion of the FRS Net Pension Liability	District's Proportionate of the FRS Net Pension Liability	District's Covered Payroll	District's Proportionate Share of the FRS Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	FRS Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability
2015	0.069608738%	\$ 8,990,902	\$ 26,442,176	34.00%	92.00%
2016	0.063040336%	15,917,734	26,272,108	60.59%	84.88%
2017	0.059431251%	17,579,365	25,959,652	67.72%	83.89%
2018	0.060877385%	18,336,584	26,929,732	68.09%	84.26%
2019	0.059432700%	20,467,794	27,280,314	75.03%	82.61%
2020	0.053843418%	23,336,531	25,903,422	90.09%	78.85%
2021	0.059768150%	4,514,804	25,949,819	17.40%	96.40%
2022	0.059323961%	22,073,281	27,886,483	79.15%	82.89%
2023	0.056861481%	22,657,500	29,237,907	77.49%	82.38%
2024	0.053603274%	20,736,267	29,456,945	70.40%	83.70%

(1) The amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of June 30.

**Schedule of District Contributions –
Florida Retirement System Pension Plan (1)**

Fiscal Year Ending June 30	Contractually Required FRS Contribution	FRS Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	FRS Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	District's Covered Payroll	FRS Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll
2016	\$ 1,538,208	\$ (1,538,208)	\$ -	\$ 26,272,108	5.85%
2017	1,543,684	(1,543,684)	-	25,959,652	5.95%
2018	1,730,247	(1,730,247)	-	26,929,732	6.43%
2019	1,854,599	(1,854,599)	-	27,280,314	6.80%
2020	1,800,831	(1,800,831)	-	25,903,422	6.95%
2021	1,788,978	(1,788,978)	-	25,949,819	6.89%
2022	2,531,461	(2,531,461)	-	27,886,483	9.08%
2023	2,788,986	(2,788,986)	-	29,237,907	9.54%
2024	3,035,357	(3,035,357)	-	29,456,945	10.30%
2025	2,766,257	(2,766,257)	-	27,266,550	10.15%

(1) The amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of June 30.

**Schedule of the District's Proportionate Share
of the Net Pension Liability –
Health Insurance Subsidy Pension Plan (1)**

Fiscal Year Ending June 30	District's Proportion of the HIS Net Pension Liability	District's Proportionate Share of the HIS Net Pension Liability	District's Covered Payroll	District's Proportionate Share of the HIS Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	HIS Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability
2015	0.0871361111%	\$ 8,886,513	\$ 26,442,176	33.61%	0.50%
2016	0.085085286%	9,916,338	26,272,108	37.74%	0.97%
2017	0.081644380%	8,729,794	25,959,652	33.63%	1.64%
2018	0.082540251%	8,736,153	26,929,732	32.44%	2.15%
2019	0.081623548%	9,132,858	27,280,314	33.48%	2.63%
2020	0.074753010%	9,127,221	25,903,422	35.24%	3.00%
2021	0.076329323%	9,362,939	25,949,819	36.08%	3.56%
2022	0.076510874%	8,103,724	27,886,483	29.06%	4.81%
2023	0.073591869%	11,687,370	29,237,907	39.97%	4.12%
2024	0.069635881%	10,446,062	29,456,945	35.46%	4.80%

(1) The amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of June 30.

**Schedule of District Contributions –
Health Insurance Subsidy Pension Plan (1)**

Fiscal Year Ending June 30	Contractually Required HIS Contribution	HIS Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	HIS Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	District's Covered Payroll	HIS Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll
2016	\$ 435,215	\$ (435,215)	\$ -	\$ 26,272,108	1.66%
2017	430,930	(430,930)	-	25,959,652	1.66%
2018	447,034	(447,034)	-	26,929,732	1.66%
2019	452,853	(452,853)	-	27,280,314	1.66%
2020	429,997	(429,997)	-	25,903,422	1.66%
2021	430,767	(430,767)	-	25,949,819	1.66%
2022	462,955	(462,955)	-	27,886,483	1.66%
2023	485,349	(485,349)	-	29,237,907	1.66%
2024	589,558	(589,558)	-	29,456,945	2.00%
2025	545,331	(545,331)	-	27,266,550	2.00%

(1) The amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of June 30.

1. Budgetary Basis of Accounting

The Board follows procedures established by State law and State Board of Education (SBE) rules in establishing budget balances for governmental funds, as described below:

- Budgets are prepared, public hearings are held, and original budgets are adopted annually for all governmental fund types in accordance with procedures and time intervals prescribed by State law and SBE rules.
- Appropriations are controlled at the object level (e.g., salaries, purchased services, and capital outlay) within each activity (e.g., instruction, student transportation services, and school administration) and may be amended by resolution at any Board meeting prior to the due date for the annual financial report.
- Budgets are prepared using the same modified accrual basis as is used to account for governmental funds.
- Budgetary information is integrated into the accounting system and, to facilitate budget control, budget balances are encumbered when purchase orders are issued. Appropriations lapse at fiscal year end and encumbrances outstanding are honored from the subsequent year's appropriations.

2. Schedule of Changes in the District's Total Other Postemployment Benefits Liability and Related Ratios

No assets are accumulated in a trust that meets the criteria in paragraph 4 of GASB Statement No. 75 to pay related benefits.

Changes of Assumptions. In 2025, the discount rate was changed from 3.86 percent to 3.93 percent; the medical claims cost and premiums were based on updated information; rates of coverage acceptance for retiring employees were lowered from 30 percent to 20 percent; and the mortality, withdrawal, disability, salary increase, retirement, and DROP entry rates were updated to align with the Florida Retirement System's July 1, 2024, actuarial valuation, which were based on the results of a statewide experience study covering the period 2018 through 2023.

3. Schedule of Net Pension Liability and Schedule of Contributions – Florida Retirement System Pension Plan

Changes of Assumptions. In 2024, salary increases including inflation increased from 3.25 percent to 3.5 percent and the mortality assumptions were updated.

4. Schedule of Net Pension Liability and Schedule of Contributions – Health Insurance Subsidy Pension Plan

Changes of Assumptions. In 2024, the municipal bond rate used to determine total pension liability was increased from 3.65 percent to 3.93 percent and the demographic and coverage election assumptions were updated.

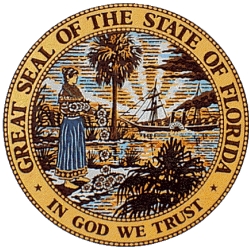
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS

Hardee County District School Board Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025

Federal Grantor/Pass-Through Grantor/ Program or Cluster	Federal Assistance Listing Number	Pass - Through Entity Identifying Number	Total Expenditures
Clustered			
Child Nutrition Cluster			
United States Department of Agriculture:			
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services:			
School Breakfast Program	10.553	25002	\$ 643,755.17
National School Lunch Program	10.555	25001, 25003	2,515,416.61
Summer Food Service Program for Children	10.559	25006, 25007	134,579.11
Total Child Nutrition Cluster			3,293,750.89
Special Education Cluster			
United States Department of Education:			
Special Education - Grants to States:			
Florida Department of Education	84.027	263	1,441,269.50
Putnam County District School Board	84.027	None	245.80
Total Special Education - Grants to States	84.027		1,441,515.30
Florida Department of Education:			
Special Education - Preschool Grants	84.173	267	43,747.21
Total Special Education Cluster			1,485,262.51
Not Clustered			
United States Department of Agriculture			
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services:			
Child Nutrition Discretionary Grants Limited Availability	10.579	None	43,662.50
United States Department of Defense			
Air Force Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps	12.UNK	N/A	92,109.99
United States Department of Education			
Florida Department of Education:			
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010	212, 226	1,967,074.26
Migrant Education - State Grant Program	84.011	217	420,425.32
Career and Technical Education - Basic Grants to States	84.048	161	111,941.42
Education for Homeless Children and Youth	84.196	127	59,562.32
Rural Education	84.358	110	159,498.92
English Language Acquisition State Grants	84.365	102	37,804.96
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants	84.367	224	259,296.38
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program	84.424	241	116,494.81
Adult Education - Basic Grants to States:			
Florida Department of Education		191	133,117.84
South Florida State College		None	1,027.98
Total Adult Education - Basic Grants to States	84.002		134,145.82
Education Stabilization Fund:			
Florida Department of Education:			
American Rescue Plan - Elementary and Secondary School			
Emergency Relief Fund	COVID-19, 84.425U	121	2,835,576.20
American Rescue Plan - Elementary and Secondary School			
Emergency Relief Fund - Homeless Children & Youth Fund	COVID-19, 84.425W	122	19,588.81
Highlands District School Board:			
American Rescue Plan - Elementary and Secondary School			
Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund	COVID-19, 84.425U	None	2,500.00
Total Education Stabilization Fund	84.425		2,857,665.01
Total United States Department of Education			6,123,909.22
United States Department of Homeland Security			
Florida Division of Emergency Management:			
Disaster Grants - Public Assistance (Presidentially Declared Disasters)	97.036	Z2893	37,631.83
Total Expenditures of Federal Awards			\$ 11,076,326.94

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this Schedule.

- Notes: (1) Basis of Presentation. The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (Schedule) includes the Federal award activity of the Hardee County District School Board under programs of the Federal Government for the fiscal 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 District, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position or changes in net position of the District.
- (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.
- (3) Indirect Cost Rate. The District has not elected to use the 10 percent de minimis cost rate allowed under the Uniform Guidance.
- (4) Noncash Assistance – National School Lunch Program. Includes \$278,685.57 of donated food used during the fiscal year. Donated foods are valued at fair value as determined at the time of donation.
- (5) Disaster Grants – Public Assistance (Presidentially Declared Disaster). The District incurred \$37,631.83 in expenditures for the Disaster Grants – Public Assistance (Presidentially Declared Disaster) grant in the 2023-24 fiscal year.



Sherrill F. Norman, CPA
Auditor General

AUDITOR GENERAL STATE OF FLORIDA

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The President of the Senate, the Speaker of the
House of Representatives, and the
Legislative Auditing Committee

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*

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*), the financial statements of the governmental activities, the discretely presented component unit, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Hardee County District School Board as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated March 30, 2026, included under the heading **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**. Our report includes a reference to other auditors who audited the financial statements of the school internal funds and the discretely presented component unit, as described in our report on the District's financial statements. This report does not include the results of the other auditors' testing of internal control over financial reporting or compliance and other matters that are reported on separately by those auditors.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the District's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the 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 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 District's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, rules, 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*.

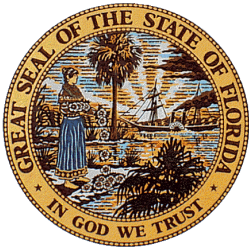
Purpose of this Report

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

Respectfully submitted,



Sherrill F. Norman, CPA
Tallahassee, Florida
March 30, 2026



Sherrill F. Norman, CPA
Auditor General

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The President of the Senate, the Speaker of the
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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR EACH MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAM AND REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE REQUIRED BY THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

Qualified and Unmodified Opinions

We have audited the Hardee County District School Board's compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the OMB *Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of the District's major Federal programs for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025. The District's major Federal programs are identified in **SECTION I – SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS** of the accompanying **SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS**.

Qualified Opinion on the Title I Program

In our opinion, except for the noncompliance described in the ***Basis for Qualified and Unmodified Opinions*** section of our report, the District complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on the Title I Program for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025.

Unmodified Opinion on the Other Major Federal Program

In our opinion, the District complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on its other major Federal program identified in **SECTION I – SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS** of the accompanying **SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS** for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025.

Basis for Qualified and Unmodified Opinions

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS); the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing*

Standards); and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Our responsibilities under those standards and the Uniform Guidance are further described in the ***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance*** section of our report.

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

Matter Giving Risk to Qualified Opinion on the Title I Program

As described in the accompanying **SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS**, the District did not comply with requirements regarding the Title I program, as described in Federal Award Finding No. 2025-001 for Eligibility. Compliance with such requirements is necessary, in our opinion, for the District to comply with the requirements applicable to that program.

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements referred to above and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, statutes, regulations, rules, and provisions of contracts or grant agreements applicable to the 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 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 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 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 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 District's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

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

Other Matters

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the District's response to the noncompliance finding identified in our compliance audit described in the accompanying **SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS**. The District is responsible for preparing a corrective action plan to address the audit finding included in our auditor's report. The District's response and **CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN** were not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of compliance and, accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

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

A deficiency in internal control over compliance exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a Federal program on a timely basis. *A material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a Federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. *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** as Federal Award Finding No. 2025-001 to be a material weakness.

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 District's response to the internal control over the compliance finding identified in our compliance audit described in the accompanying **SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS**. The District is

responsible for preparing a corrective action plan to address the audit finding included in our auditor's report. The District's response and **CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN** were not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of compliance and, accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

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,



Sherrill F. Norman, CPA
Tallahassee, Florida
March 30, 2026

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

SECTION I – SUMMARY OF AUDITOR’S RESULTS

Financial Statements

Type of auditor’s report issued on whether the financial statements audited were prepared in accordance with GAAP:	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 Federal programs:	
Material weakness(es) identified?	Yes
Significant deficiency(ies) identified?	None reported
Type of auditor’s report issued on compliance for major Federal programs:	Unmodified for the Education Stabilization Fund and qualified for the Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies
Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with 2 CFR 200.516(a)?	Yes
Identification of major Federal programs:	
Assistance Listing Numbers:	Name of Federal Program or Cluster:
84.010	Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies
84.425	Education Stabilization Fund
Dollar threshold used to distinguish between type A and type B programs:	\$750,000
Auditee qualified as low risk auditee?	Yes

SECTION II – FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS

No matters are reported.

SECTION III – FEDERAL AWARD FINDING AND QUESTIONED COSTS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Finding Number	2025-001
Assistance Listing Number	84.010
Program Title	Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies
Compliance Requirement	Eligibility
Pass-Through Entity	Florida Department of Education (FDOE)
Federal Grant/Contract Number and Grant Year	S010A240009-2025
Statistically Valid Sample	No
Finding Type	Opinion Qualification, Material Noncompliance, and Material Weakness
Questioned Costs	\$220,333
Prior Year Finding	Not Applicable
Finding	The District under allocated Title I Program funding to three schools by a total of \$220,333, resulting in questioned costs of that amount.
Criteria	Title 34, Section 200.78, Code of Federal Regulations, requires the District to allocate Title I schoolwide program funds to schools, identified as eligible and selected to participate, in rank order based on the total number of children from low-income families in each school. The District is not required to allocate the same per-pupil amount (PPA) to each participating school provided that it allocates higher PPAs to schools with higher concentrations of poverty than to schools with lower concentrations of poverty.
Condition	<p>The District annually applies for Title I Program funding and the application includes a budget and an eligibility survey to document the amounts budgeted per participating school. During the 2024-25 fiscal year, the District expended \$1,967,074 from the Title I Program, including \$1,784,371 expended for District schools.</p> <p>As part of our audit, we requested for examination District records supporting the budget allocation amounts to the seven Title I Program schools and final budget amounts evidencing the allocations provided. However, District records indicated that the ranking of three District Title I Program schools did not agree with the ranking based on the percent of students from low-income families. Specifically, three schools had poverty concentrations of 74.9, 72.6, and 68.1 percent but were allocated and received \$27,352, \$82,630, and \$110,351 less funding, respectively, than a school with a lower poverty concentration of 67 percent.</p>
Cause	The District had not established effective procedures for monitoring Title I Program budget amounts allocated to participating schools.
Effect	The District did not comply with Federal regulations by appropriately allocating Title I Program funding, resulting in three schools being underfunded by a total of \$220,333 and educational services that were not funded at required levels.
Recommendation	The District should establish monitoring procedures for ensuring and documenting that Title I Program funding is properly allocated to schools. In addition, the District should provide documentation to the FDOE supporting the

allowability of the questioned costs totaling \$220,333 or allocate that amount to the applicable underfunded Title I Program schools.

District Response

Title I rank and serve must be established in both the initial and final budgets and consistently maintained throughout the fiscal year. Any adjustments to school allocations must preserve rank order and per-pupil allocations.

During the 2024–2025 fiscal year, an allocation to a lower-ranked school resulted in PSES not being fully maintained. While the District has historically monitored Title I budgets, this finding identified a need to strengthen internal controls to ensure continued alignment with Federal requirements.

In response, the District will implement monthly monitoring of Title I school budgets to verify that rank and serve requirements and PSES calculations are maintained throughout the year. Additionally, the District will seek technical assistance from the Florida Department of Education Federal Programs Office to ensure full compliance moving forward.

SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS

The District did not have prior audit findings required to be reported under Title 2, Section 200.511, Code of Federal Regulations.

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF HARDEE COUNTY

Sonja Bennett, Superintendent

P. O. Box 1678 – 1009 North 6th Avenue • Wauchula, FL 33873
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March 26, 2026

School Board

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District 3
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District 4
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District 5
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Sherrill F. Norman, CPA
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State of Florida
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111 West Madison Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1450

Subject: Corrective Action Plan
Federal Grant: 250-2125B-5CB01
Finding Number: 2025-01

Dear Ms. Norman:

The District appreciates the opportunity to respond to the audit finding regarding inconsistencies between Title I rank order and the allocation of funds based on low-income student percentages for the 2024–2025 fiscal year.

Our review indicates that the variance in allocations resulted from a budget decision to provide additional Title I funding to Bowling Green Elementary to support after-school programming, without fully accounting for per-pupil allocation. Historically, Bowling Green Elementary has served one of the highest concentrations of students from low-income families in the District, and the additional allocation was intended to ensure continuity of extended learning opportunities for students with significant academic need.

While this decision was grounded in student need, the District recognizes that the additional funds were not fully reconciled with updated poverty data and required rank-order calculations.

The District has demonstrated compliance with rank and serve requirements in prior years; however, to prevent recurrence, we are strengthening our internal controls. Beginning immediately, the District will implement a structured monthly review of Title I school allocations involving the Title I Program Specialist, the Finance Director, and the Deputy Superintendent to ensure that the 2025-2026 allocations align with current poverty data and PSES calculations. Additionally, the District will seek guidance from the Florida Department of Education Title I Office to confirm that our procedures fully meet all regulatory expectations.

The District is confident that these corrective actions will ensure full compliance in 2025-2026 moving forward and will strengthen the integrity of our allocation processes.

Sincerely,

Sonja M Bennett
Superintendent of Schools

DISTRICT VISION STATEMENT

“Empower and inspire all students for success”