



eStem Public Charter School

**Regulatory Basis Financial Statements
and
Supplementary Information
June 30, 2023**

(With Independent Auditor's Reports Thereon)

eStem Public Charter School

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Board of Directors
eStem Public Charter School
Little Rock, Arkansas

Report on the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of each major governmental fund and the fiduciary fund of the charter school known as **eStem Public Charter School** (the School), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the School's regulatory basis financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Unmodified Opinions on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the respective regulatory basis financial position of each major governmental fund and fiduciary fund information of the School as of June 30, 2023, and their respective regulatory basis changes in financial position and the respective regulatory basis budgetary comparison for the general and special revenue funds for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of Arkansas Code Annotated §10-4-413(c) as provided in Act 2201 of 2005, as described in Note 1.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles section of our report, the accompanying financial statements referred to above do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the School as of June 30, 2023, or the changes in its financial position for the year then ended.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the School 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.

Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

As described in Note 1 to the financial statements, the financial statements are prepared by the School on the basis of the financial reporting provisions of Arkansas Code Annotated §10-4-413(c) as provided in Act 2201 of 2005, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the

Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (*Continued*)

United States of America, to meet the requirements of the State of Arkansas. The effects on the financial statements of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 1 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material and pervasive.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of Arkansas Code Annotated §10-4-413(c) as provided in Act 2201 of 2005, as described in Note 1, to meet the requirements of the State of Arkansas. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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

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

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the School'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.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the School'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.

Other Matters

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the regulatory basis financial statements as a whole. The schedule of capital assets, which is the responsibility of management, is presented for the purpose of additional analysis and in compliance with state statute and is not a required part of the financial statements. Such information has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the regulatory basis financial statements and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

The schedule of expenditures of federal awards, as required by Title 2 *U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*, is presented for the purpose of additional analysis and is not a required part of the regulatory basis financial statements. The schedule of expenditures of federal awards is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the regulatory basis financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the regulatory basis financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the regulatory basis financial statements or to the regulatory basis financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the schedule of expenditures of federal awards is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the regulatory basis 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 22, 2024, on our consideration of the School's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the School's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Little Rock, Arkansas
March 22, 2024

Financial Statements

eStem Public Charter School

Balance Sheet – Regulatory Basis June 30, 2023

	Governmental Funds		
	Major		
	General	Special Revenue	Fiduciary Fund
ASSETS			
Cash	\$ 34,973	\$ 188,969	\$ 148,044
Repurchase agreement	2,703,876	-	-
Accounts receivable	185,447	239,548	-
Due from special revenue fund	187,391	-	-
Due from CMO, net	477,873	-	-
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 3,589,560</u>	<u>\$ 428,517</u>	<u>\$ 148,044</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES			
Liabilities			
Accounts payable	\$ 176,483	\$ 5,289	\$ -
Accrued payroll and related expenditures	1,388,001	-	-
Due to student groups	-	-	148,044
Due to general fund	-	187,391	-
Due to CMO, net	-	16,192	-
Total Liabilities	<u>1,564,484</u>	<u>208,872</u>	<u>148,044</u>
Fund Balances			
Restricted	-	219,645	-
Unassigned	2,025,076	-	-
Total Fund Balances	<u>2,025,076</u>	<u>219,645</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	<u>\$ 3,589,560</u>	<u>\$ 428,517</u>	<u>\$ 148,044</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

eStem Public Charter School

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances – Governmental Funds – Regulatory Basis For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

	Governmental Funds	
	Major	
	General	Special Revenue
REVENUES		
State assistance	\$ 26,854,459	\$ 5,209
Federal assistance	-	6,127,740
Meal sales	-	167,899
Private assistance	184,249	-
Interest	28,489	-
Total Revenues	27,067,197	6,300,848
EXPENDITURES		
Instructional services	12,922,695	2,492,165
Instructional support services	764,954	913,509
Student support services	2,432,276	980,256
School administration	1,883,546	246
General administration	654,674	103,294
Central services	1,890,935	187,276
Community services	-	26,953
Operation and maintenance of plant	5,911,669	170,647
Transportation	43,016	-
Food services	-	1,141,039
Acquisitions and Construction	100,940	362,968
Total Expenditures	26,604,705	6,378,353
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES		
(EXCESS OF EXPENDITURES OVER REVENUES)	462,492	(77,505)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES		
Grant revenue pass through	-	229,813
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	462,492	152,308
FUND BALANCES - BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,562,584	67,337
FUND BALANCES - END OF YEAR	\$ 2,025,076	\$ 219,645

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

eStem Public Charter School

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget and Actual – General and Special Revenue Funds – Regulatory Basis For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

	General			Special Revenue		
	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
REVENUES						
State assistance	\$ 26,736,637	\$ 26,854,459	\$ 117,822	\$ 3,500	\$ 5,209	\$ 1,709
Federal assistance	-	-	-	7,644,538	6,127,740	(1,516,798)
Meal sales	-	-	-	52,500	167,899	115,399
Private assistance	244,725	184,249	(60,476)	-	-	-
Interest	1,200	28,489	27,289	-	-	-
Total Revenues	<u>26,982,562</u>	<u>27,067,197</u>	<u>84,635</u>	<u>7,700,538</u>	<u>6,300,848</u>	<u>(1,399,690)</u>
EXPENDITURES						
Instructional services	12,931,494	12,922,695	8,799	2,106,044	2,492,165	(386,121)
Instructional support services	770,949	764,954	5,995	838,552	913,509	(74,957)
Student support services	2,034,706	2,432,276	(397,570)	847,616	980,256	(132,640)
School administration	1,648,101	1,883,546	(235,445)	-	246	(246)
General administration	702,735	654,674	48,061	103,312	103,294	18
Central services	2,485,080	1,890,935	594,145	141,562	187,276	(45,714)
Community services	-	-	-	43,038	26,953	16,085
Operation and maintenance of plant	5,829,821	5,911,669	(81,848)	116,671	170,647	(53,976)
Transportation	38,638	43,016	(4,378)	-	-	-
Food services	-	-	-	1,037,252	1,141,039	(103,787)
Acquisitions and construction	82,285	100,940	(18,655)	918,246	362,968	555,278
Total Expenditures	<u>26,523,809</u>	<u>26,604,705</u>	<u>(80,896)</u>	<u>6,152,293</u>	<u>6,378,353</u>	<u>(226,060)</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES						
(EXCESS OF EXPENDITURES OVER REVENUES)	458,753	462,492	3,739	1,548,245	(77,505)	(1,625,750)
OTHER FINANCING (USES) SOURCES						
Grant revenue pass through	-	-	-	371,810	229,813	(141,997)
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	458,753	462,492	3,739	1,920,055	152,308	(1,767,747)
FUND BALANCES - BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>1,562,584</u>	<u>1,562,584</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>67,337</u>	<u>67,337</u>	<u>-</u>
FUND BALANCES - END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 2,021,337</u>	<u>\$ 2,025,076</u>	<u>\$ 3,739</u>	<u>\$ 1,987,392</u>	<u>\$ 219,645</u>	<u>\$ (1,767,747)</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

eStem Public Charter School

Notes to Financial Statements June 30, 2023

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Reporting Entity

eStem Public Charter School (the School) is operated as an open-enrollment charter school in accordance with the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) Rules and Regulations Governing Charter Schools and offers educational opportunities for students in grade levels from kindergarten through twelfth grade. Effective July 1, 2023, the Arkansas State Board of Education (the State Board) renewed the School's charter for a ten-year period that will expire on June 30, 2033 and capped their enrollment at 3,844 students. The School was created as a single school district through a merger, approved by the State Board effective July 1, 2013, of the three charters granted to eStem Elementary Public Charter School (the Elementary School), eStem Middle Public Charter School (the Middle School) and eStem High Public Charter School (the High School). The Elementary School, the Middle School and the High School are separate nonprofit legal entities incorporated under the laws of the State of Arkansas (the State) but are considered to be one entity for state reporting purposes.

The School is party to certain agreements and shares certain common board members with eStem Public Charter Schools, Inc., (the Charter Management Organization, hereinafter referred to as the CMO). While the CMO and the School share certain common board members, each organization is a separate legal entity. These financial statements include only balances and transactions directly attributable to the School and do not include any balances or transactions attributable to the CMO.

Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with a regulatory basis of accounting (RBA). This basis of accounting is prescribed by Arkansas Code Annotated §10-4-413(c), as provided in Act 2201 of 2005, and requires that financial statements be presented on a fund basis with, at a minimum, the general fund and special revenue fund presented separately and all other funds, if any, presented in the aggregate. The law also stipulates that the financial statements consist of a balance sheet - regulatory basis; a statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balances - regulatory basis; a comparison of the final adopted budget to the actual expenditures for the general fund and special revenue funds of the entity; notes to the financial statements; and a supplemental schedule of capital assets, including land, buildings, and equipment. The law further stipulates that the State Board shall promulgate the rules necessary to administer the regulatory basis of presentation.

The RBA is not in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (U.S. GAAP). U.S. GAAP require that basic financial statements present government-wide financial statements. Additionally, U.S. GAAP require the following major concepts: management's discussion and analysis; accrual basis of accounting for government-wide financial statements, including depreciation expense; modified accrual basis of accounting for fund financial statements; separate financial statements for fiduciary fund types and other requirements for fiduciary fund types; separate identification of special and extraordinary items; inclusion of capital assets, leases and debt in the financial statements; inclusion of the net pension liability in the financial statements; specific procedures for the identification of major governmental funds and applicable note disclosures. The RBA does not require government-wide financial statements or the previously identified concepts.

eStem Public Charter School

Notes to Financial Statements June 30, 2023

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting (Continued)

The accompanying financial statements are presented on a fund basis. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts, which are segregated for purposes of recording specific activities or attaining certain objectives. Revenues are reported by major sources and expenditures are reported by major function. Other transactions, which are not reported as revenues or expenditures, are reported as other financing sources and uses.

Major governmental funds (per the RBA) are defined as the General Fund and the Special Revenue Fund, as described below:

General Fund – The General Fund is used to account for and report all financial resources and operating expenditures of the School not accounted for and reported in another fund.

Special Revenue Fund – The Special Revenue Fund is used to account for and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are legally restricted or committed to expenditure for specified purposes other than debt service or capital projects. The Special Revenue Fund includes federal revenues and related expenditures which are restricted for specific educational programs or projects, including the School's food services operations.

The fiduciary fund is presented in a separate column in the Balance Sheet – Regulatory Basis and is described as follows:

Custodial Fund – The custodial fund is used to report resources held by the reporting government in a purely custodial capacity (assets equal liabilities).

The School had no other funds during the year ended June 30, 2023.

Revenue Recognition

Revenues are recognized when they become susceptible to accrual in accordance with the RBA.

Capital Assets

Capital assets are reported at historical cost or estimated historical cost, if actual historical cost is not available. Capital assets purchased are recorded as expenditures in the applicable fund at the time of purchase. Donated capital assets are reported at acquisition value when received. The School maintains a threshold level of \$1,000 for capitalizing assets.

Capital assets are depreciated using the straight-line method over their estimated useful lives, which range from three to twenty years. No salvage value is taken into consideration for purposes of calculating depreciation.

Interfund Balances and Transactions

Receivables and payables resulting from short-term interfund loans are classified as due to or due from other funds.

eStem Public Charter School

Notes to Financial Statements June 30, 2023

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Fund Balances

Governmental fund equity is classified as fund balance. Fund balance is further classified as nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned or unassigned. Nonspendable fund balance represents amounts that cannot be spent because they are either not in a spendable form or are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. Restricted fund balance represents amounts that are restricted to specific purposes when constraints placed on the use of resources are either externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors or laws or regulations of other governments or are imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. Committed fund balance represents amounts that can only be used for specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by formal action of the School's governing body. Assigned fund balance represents amounts that are constrained by the School's intent to be used for specific purposes, but are neither restricted nor committed. Unassigned fund balance represents amounts that have not been assigned to other funds and that have not been restricted, committed or assigned to specific purposes within the general fund.

The School's highest level of decision-making authority is its Board of Directors. The establishment of amounts classified as committed fund balances and subsequent modifications to such balances are the result of formal actions taken by the School's Board of Directors through a resolution or adoption of board policy.

The School's revenues, expenditures and fund balances are tracked in the accounting system by source of funds. The fund balance of these sources of funds are combined to derive the School's total fund balance by fund. It is uncommon for an individual source of funds to contain restricted and unrestricted funds. The School's policy is to use restricted fund balances first, then unassigned fund balance. Furthermore, committed fund balances are reduced first, followed by assigned amounts and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of those unrestricted fund balance classifications can be used.

Budget and Budgetary Accounting

The School is required by state law to prepare an annual budget. The annual budget is prepared on a fiscal year basis. The School is generally not required to submit amended budgets during the fiscal year. The ADE's regulations allow for the cash basis or the modified accrual basis. Budgetary perspective differences are not considered to be significant because the structure of the information utilized in preparing the budget and the applicable fund financial statements is essentially the same.

Stabilization Arrangements

The School's Board of Directors has not formally set aside amounts for use in emergency situations or when revenue shortages or budgetary imbalances arise.

Minimum Fund Balance Policies

The School's Board of Directors has not formally adopted a minimum fund balance policy.

eStem Public Charter School

Notes to Financial Statements June 30, 2023

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with the RBA requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect reported amounts of certain assets and liabilities and various disclosures in the financial statements. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

Encumbrances

The School does not utilize encumbrance accounting.

NOTE 2: CASH

The School's cash consists of demand deposits maintained at a financial institution. State statutes require that the School's funds be deposited in banks located in the State and that all deposit balances in excess of Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation insurance limits be collateralized. At June 30, 2023, the bank balances of the School's demand deposit accounts maintained at a financial institution totaled \$416,807, all of which either was insured or collateralized.

NOTE 3: REPURCHASE AGREEMENT

At June 30, 2023, the School held securities through a repurchase agreement in the amount of \$2,703,876. Securities purchased through this agreement are limited to U.S. Treasuries, U.S. Government agencies, mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations.

NOTE 4: ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

The accounts receivable balances at June 30, 2023 were comprised of the following:

Description	Governmental Funds		Total
	Major		
	General	Special Revenue	
Federal assistance	\$ -	\$ 239,548	\$ 239,548
State assistance	171,503	-	171,503
Other	13,944	-	13,944
Totals	\$ 185,447	\$ 239,548	\$ 424,995

eStem Public Charter School

Notes to Financial Statements June 30, 2023

NOTE 5: COMMITMENTS

Certain equipment and facilities are leased under noncancelable operating lease agreements with terms in excess of one year. Approximate future minimum lease payments, by fiscal year, under such leases at June 30, 2023 are as follow:

2024	\$ 2,151,579
2025	2,624,470
2026	3,072,546
2027	3,073,629
2028	3,074,748
2029-2033	15,384,208
2034-2038	14,613,251
2039-2043	11,747,712
2044-2048	10,860,470
2049-2053	2,875,292
2053-2057	2,443,999
Total	<u>\$ 71,921,904</u>

Total occupancy and equipment rentals were approximately \$2,115,000 for the year ended June 30, 2023.

NOTE 6: ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Accounts payable at June 30, 2023 were comprised of vendor payables of \$176,483 from the General Fund and \$5,289 from the Special Revenue Fund.

NOTE 7: RETIREMENT PLAN

Plan Description

The School contributes to the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System (ATRS), a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan that covers employees of schools and education-related agencies, except certain non-teaching school employees. ATRS, administered by a Board of Trustees, provides retirement and disability benefits, annual cost-of-living adjustments and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. Benefit provisions are established by state law and can be amended only by the Arkansas General Assembly. ATRS issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for ATRS. That report may be obtained by writing to Arkansas Teacher Retirement System, 1400 West Third Street, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201, or by calling 1-800-666-2877, or by visiting the ATRS website at www.artrs.gov.

eStem Public Charter School

Notes to Financial Statements June 30, 2023

NOTE 7: RETIREMENT PLAN (Continued)

Funding Policy

ATRS has contributory and non-contributory plans. Contributory members are required by state law to contribute 7% of their salaries. Each participating employer is required by state law to contribute at a rate determined by the ATRS Board of Trustees, based on the annual actuarial valuation. The employer rate at June 30, 2023 is 15% of covered salaries. The School's contributions to ATRS for the year ended June 30, 2023, 2022 and 2021 were approximately \$2,595,000, \$2,365,000 and \$2,197,000, respectively, which were equal to the required contributions for each year.

Net Pension Liability

The ADE has stipulated that the requirements of Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 68 under the RBA would be limited to disclosure of the School's proportionate share of the collective net pension liability. The School's proportionate share of the collective net pension liability at June 30, 2022 (the actuarial valuation date and measurement date) was \$27,316,575.

NOTE 8: ON BEHALF PAYMENTS

The allocation of the health insurance premiums paid by the ADE, on behalf of the School's employees, totaled approximately \$768,000 for the year ended June 30, 2023.

NOTE 9: DETAILS OF GOVERNMENTAL FUND BALANCE CLASSIFICATIONS

At June 30, 2023, the School's fund balances consisted of the following:

<u>Description</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>
Fund Balances		
Restricted for:		
Food Services	\$ -	\$ 79,334
Medical Services	-	36,614
Teacher Incentives	-	97,306
Capital Assets		6,391
Total Restricted	-	219,645
Unassigned	2,025,076	-
Total fund balances	\$ 2,025,076	\$ 219,645

eStem Public Charter School

Notes to Financial Statements June 30, 2023

NOTE 10: ACADEMIC AND BUSINESS SERVICES AGREEMENT

The CMO provides facilities, personnel and certain services to the School. Such services include implementing educational programs, personnel management, facility and property management, business administration, budgeting and financial reporting, financial management, maintenance of records, pupil recruitment and admissions, family services, student discipline, annual reports, teacher training and professional development, charter renewal, public and governmental relations and any other services which may be agreed to in writing.

These services are provided pursuant to a management agreement and related amendments (the Agreement) executed between the CMO and the School. The Agreement provides that the CMO is entitled to receive management fees equal to the CMO's board approved budgeted operating expenses, to the extent that such fees do not cause the School to incur a loss in the General Fund. In addition, the CMO will be reimbursed for all expenses incurred by the CMO on behalf of the School.

In addition to providing academic and business services, the CMO may from time-to-time make expenditures on behalf of the School for computers, equipment or operating expenses.

The School may also provide and receive periodic advances to and from the CMO. At June 30, 2023, the School had an outstanding balance due to the general fund from the CMO of \$477,873 and an outstanding balance due to the CMO from the special revenue fund of \$16,192.

For the year ended June 30, 2023, management fees totaled approximately \$418,000 and expenditures reimbursed to the CMO totaled approximately \$611,000.

NOTE 11: RISK MANAGEMENT

The School is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees and students; and natural disasters. The School has purchased commercial insurance to address these risks.

The School participates in the Arkansas School Board Association – Workers' Compensation Trust (the Trust), a self-insurance trust voluntarily established on July 1, 1994, pursuant to state law. The Trust is responsible for obtaining and administering workers' compensation insurance coverage for its members, as well as obtaining reinsurance coverage for those claims that exceed the standard policy limits. In its administrative capacity, the Trust is responsible for monitoring, negotiating and settling claims that have been filed on behalf of and against member districts. The School contributes annually to this program.

There have been no significant reductions in the School's insurance coverage during the year ended June 30, 2023. In addition, there have been no settlements in excess of the School's coverage.

Required Supplementary Information

eStem Public Charter School

Schedule of Capital Assets (Unaudited) June 30, 2023

DEPRECIABLE CAPITAL ASSETS

Furniture and equipment	\$ 3,430,899
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(2,342,454)</u>
Total Depreciable Capital Assets, Net	<u>\$ 1,088,445</u>

See Independent Auditor's Report.

**Other Reports and
Supplementary Information**



**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 Board of Directors
eStem Public Charter School
Little Rock, Arkansas

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of each major governmental fund and the fiduciary fund information of the charter school known as **eStem Public Charter School (the School)** as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the School's regulatory basis financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated March 22, 2024. We issued an adverse opinion because the School prepared the financial statements on the basis of the financial reporting provisions of Arkansas Code Annotated § 10 – 4 – 413(c) as provided in Act 2201 of 2005, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The effects on the financial statements of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material and pervasive. However, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the respective regulatory basis financial position of each major governmental fund and the fiduciary fund information of the School as of June 30, 2023, and the respective regulatory basis changes in financial position thereof and the respective regulatory basis budgetary comparison for the general and special revenue funds for the year then ended, on the basis of accounting described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

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

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the School's regulatory basis financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or 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.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting (*Continued*)

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 may exist that have not been identified.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

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

Purpose of this Report

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Landmark PLC". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Little Rock, Arkansas
March 22, 2024



**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR EACH MAJOR PROGRAM AND
REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH
THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE**

The Board of Directors
eStem Public Charter School
Little Rock, Arkansas

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We have audited **eStem Public Charter School's (the School)** compliance with the types of compliance requirements described in the *OMB Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of the School's major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2023. The School's major federal programs are identified in the summary of auditor's results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

In our opinion, the School complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2023.

Basis for Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS); the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*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 School and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion on compliance for each major federal program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of the School's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

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

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

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

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

Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

A *deficiency in internal control over compliance* exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. A *material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or 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.

Report on Internal Control Over Compliance (Continued)

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

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

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Landmark PLC". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Little Rock, Arkansas
March 22, 2024

eStem Public Charter School

Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards Year Ended June 30, 2023

Federal Grantor/Pass -Through Grantor/Program or Cluster Title	Federal Assistance Listing Number	Pass-Through Entity Identifying Number	Expenditures
CHILD NUTRITION CLUSTER			
U.S. Department of Agriculture			
Passed Through Arkansas Department of Education:			
National School Lunch Program	10.555	3604770001	\$ 957,818
Fresh Fruits and Vegetable Program	10.582	3604770001	<u>92,941</u>
Total Child Nutrition Cluster			<u>1,050,759</u>
SPECIAL EDUCATION CLUSTER (IDEA)			
U.S. Department of Education			
Passed Through Arkansas Department of Education:			
IDEA, Part B - Special Education - Grants to States	84.027	3604770001	786,356
COVID-19 American Rescue Plan- Special Education- Grants to States	84.027X	3604770001	87,380
IDEA, Part B - Special Education - Preschool Grants	84.173	3604770001	21,837
COVID-19 American Rescue Plan- Special Education- Preschool Grants	84.173X	3604770001	<u>3,192</u>
Total Special Education Cluster (IDEA)			<u>898,765</u>
OTHER PROGRAMS			
Federal Communications Commission			
Emergency Connectivity Fund Program	32.009	3604770001	<u>9,096</u>
Total Federal Communications Commission			<u>9,096</u>
U.S. Department of Education			
Passed Through Arkansas Department of Education:			
COVID -19 - American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund	84.425U	3604770001	2,308,289
COVID -19 - American Rescue Plan Homeless Child and Youth	84.425W	3604770001	<u>11,039</u>
Total Education Stabilization Fund			<u>2,319,328</u>

(Continued)

See Independent Auditor's Report.

eStem Public Charter School

Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards *(Continued)* Year Ended June 30, 2023

Federal Grantor/Pass -Through Grantor/Program or Cluster Title	Federal Assistance Listing Number	Pass-Through Entity Identifying Number	Expenditures
OTHER PROGRAMS <i>(Continued)</i>			
U.S. Department of Education <i>(Continued)</i>			
Passed Through Arkansas Department of Education:			
Title I, Part A - Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010	3604770001	\$ 1,453,273
Homeless Assistance Act for Children	84.196	3604770001	19,238
Title II, Part A -Supporting Effective Instruction			
State Grant	84.367	3604770001	172,815
Title III, Part A - English Language Acquisition	84.365	3604770001	14,908
Title IV, Part A - Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program	84.424	3604770001	73,303
Teacher and School Leader Incentive Grants	84.374	3604770001	132,507
Total U.S. Department of Education			<u>1,866,044</u>
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services			
Passed Through Arkansas Department of Education:			
Surveillance Participation Incentive	93.079	3604770001	798
Total U.S. Department of Health and Suman Services			<u>798</u>
Total Other Programs			<u>4,195,266</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS			<u><u>\$ 6,144,790</u></u>

See Independent Auditor's Report.

eStem Public Charter School

Notes to the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards Year Ended June 30, 2023

Basis of Presentation

The Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (the "Schedule") includes federal grant activity of eStem Public Charter School (the School) under programs of the federal government for the year ended June 30, 2023. The information in this Schedule is presented in accordance with the requirements of the Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 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 School, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position or changes in financial position of the School.

Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Expenditures reported on the Schedule are reported on the regulatory basis of accounting. Such expenditures are recognized following the cost principles contained in Uniform Guidance, wherein certain types of expenditures are not allowable or are limited as to reimbursement.

10 Percent De Minimis Indirect Cost Rate

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

Medicaid Reimbursements

During the year ended June 30, 2023, the School received Medicaid funding of \$349,218 from the Arkansas Department of Human Services. Such payments are not considered Federal awards expended, and therefore, are not included in the Schedule.

See Independent Auditor's Report.

eStem Public Charter School

Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs

Year Ended June 30, 2023

I. SUMMARY OF INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S RESULTS

1. The opinion expressed in the independent auditor's report on accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America:

☐ Unmodified ☐ Qualified ☒ Adverse ☐ Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in the independent auditor's report on the basis of accounting prescribed or permitted by the State of Arkansas:

☒ Unmodified ☐ Qualified ☐ Adverse ☐ Disclaimer

2. The independent auditor's report on internal control over financial reporting disclosed:

Significant deficiency(ies)?

☐ Yes ☒ None reported

Material weakness(es)?

☐ Yes ☒ No

3. Noncompliance considered material to the financial statements was disclosed by the audit?

☐ Yes ☒ No

4. The independent auditor's report on internal control over compliance with requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each major federal awards program disclosed:

Significant deficiency(ies)?

☐ Yes ☒ None reported

Material weakness(es)?

☐ Yes ☒ No

5. The opinion expressed in the independent auditor's report on internal control over compliance with requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each major federal awards program were:

☒ Unmodified ☐ Qualified ☐ Adverse ☐ Disclaimer

6. The audit disclosed findings required to be reported by the Uniform Guidance?

☐ Yes ☒ No

7. The School's major programs were:

- Department of Education, COVID-19-Education Stabilization Fund, Federal Assistance Listing #84.425U and #84.425W
- Department of Education, Title I, Part A-Grants to Local Educational Agencies, Federal Assistance Listing #84.010

See Independent Auditor's Report.

eStem Public Charter School

Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs *(Continued)* Year Ended June 30, 2023

I. SUMMARY OF INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S RESULTS *(Continued)*

8. The threshold used to distinguish between Type A and Type B programs as those terms are defined in the Uniform Guidance was \$750,000.

9. The School qualified as a low-risk auditee as that term is defined in the Uniform Guidance?

☒ Yes ☐ No

II. FINDINGS RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT AS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GENERALLY ACCEPTED *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

There were no audit findings for the year ended June 30, 2023.

III. FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS

There were no audit findings for the year ended June 30, 2023.

See Independent Auditor's Report.



**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE
WITH ARKANSAS STATE REQUIREMENTS**

The Board of Directors
eStem Public Charter School
Little Rock, Arkansas

We have examined management's assertions that **eStem Public Charter School (the School)** substantially complied with the requirements of Arkansas Code Annotated 6-1-101 and applicable laws and regulations listed on Arkansas Department of Education form OCI 95-96 during the year ended June 30, 2023. Management is responsible for the School's compliance with those requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the School's compliance based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and, accordingly, including examining, on a test basis, evidence about the School's compliance with those requirements and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe our examination provides a reasonable basis for our opinion. Our examination does not provide a legal determination of the School's compliance with specified requirements.

In our opinion, the School complied, in all material respects, with the aforementioned requirements for the year ended June 30, 2023.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the board of directors, management and the Arkansas Department of Education, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Landmark PLC". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Little Rock, Arkansas
March 22, 2024