

Bearden School District No. 53

Ouachita County, Arkansas

**Regulatory Basis Financial Statements
and Other Reports**

June 30, 2025



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OUACHITA COUNTY, ARKANSAS
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Arkansas



Sen. Jim Petty
Senate Chair
Sen. Jim Dotson
Senate Vice Chair

Rep. Robin Lundstrum
House Chair
Rep. RJ Hawk
House Vice Chair

Kevin William White, CPA, JD
Legislative Auditor

LEGISLATIVE JOINT AUDITING COMMITTEE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Bearden School District No. 53 and School Board Members
Legislative Joint Auditing Committee

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of each major governmental fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Bearden School District No. 53 (the "District"), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District'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 referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective regulatory basis financial position of each major governmental fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the District as of June 30, 2025, 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 in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of Ark. Code Ann. § 10-4-413(c) as provided in Act 2201 of 2005 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 District as of June 30, 2025, or the changes in financial position for the year then ended.

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.

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

As described in Note 1 of the financial statements, the financial statements are prepared by the District on the basis of the financial reporting provisions of Ark. Code Ann. § 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, 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 these financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of Ark. Code Ann. § 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 District's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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

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

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

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information included in the report. The other information comprises the Schedule of Capital Assets and the Schedule of Selected Information for the Last Five Years – Regulatory Basis but does not include the regulatory basis financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinions on the regulatory basis financial statements do not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the regulatory basis financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the regulatory basis financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 6, 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, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the 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.

ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin White" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kevin William White, CPA, JD
Legislative Auditor

Little Rock, Arkansas
March 6, 2026
EDSD27525

Arkansas

Sen. Jim Petty
Senate Chair
Sen. Jim Dotson
Senate Vice Chair



Rep. Robin Lundstrum
House Chair
Rep. RJ Hawk
House Vice Chair

Kevin William White, CPA, JD
Legislative Auditor

LEGISLATIVE JOINT AUDITING COMMITTEE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

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*

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Bearden School District No. 53 and School Board Members
Legislative Joint Auditing Committee

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 each major governmental fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Bearden School District No. 53 (the "District"), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's regulatory basis financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated March 6, 2026. We issued an adverse opinion because the District prepared the financial statements on the basis of the financial reporting provisions of Arkansas Code, 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 aggregate remaining fund information of the District as of June 30, 2025, 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.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the regulatory basis 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 regulatory basis 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 regulatory basis 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.

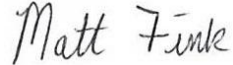
Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the District's regulatory basis financial statements are free from 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 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 entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Fink". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Matt Fink, CPA
Deputy Legislative Auditor

Little Rock, Arkansas
March 6, 2026

BEARDEN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 53
 OUACHITA COUNTY, ARKANSAS
 BALANCE SHEET - REGULATORY BASIS
 JUNE 30, 2025

Exhibit A

| | Governmental Funds | | | |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| | Major | | | Fiduciary Fund Types |
| | General | Special Revenue | Other Aggregate | |
| ASSETS | | | | |
| Cash | \$ 1,098,556 | \$ 20,478 | \$ 480,038 | \$ 4,978 |
| Investments | 109,740 | | 1,795,454 | 34,271 |
| Accounts receivable | 13,877 | 57,118 | | |
| TOTAL ASSETS | <u>\$ 1,222,173</u> | <u>\$ 77,596</u> | <u>\$ 2,275,492</u> | <u>\$ 39,249</u> |
| LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES | | | | |
| Liabilities: | | | | |
| Accounts payable | \$ 35,217 | \$ 305 | \$ 8,854 | |
| Fund Balances: | | | | |
| Restricted | 127,721 | 77,291 | | \$ 39,249 |
| Assigned | 72,122 | | 2,266,638 | |
| Unassigned | 987,113 | | | |
| Total Fund Balances | <u>1,186,956</u> | <u>77,291</u> | <u>2,266,638</u> | <u>39,249</u> |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES | <u>\$ 1,222,173</u> | <u>\$ 77,596</u> | <u>\$ 2,275,492</u> | <u>\$ 39,249</u> |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

BEARDEN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 53
OUACHITA COUNTY, ARKANSAS
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES -
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS - REGULATORY BASIS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

Exhibit B

| | Major | | Other Aggregate |
|--|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| | General | Special Revenue | |
| REVENUES | | | |
| Property taxes (including property tax relief trust distribution) | \$ 1,514,369 | | |
| State assistance | 3,813,967 | \$ 7,699 | |
| Federal assistance | | 830,536 | |
| Activity revenues | 140,734 | | |
| Meal sales | | 49,589 | |
| Investment income | 31,919 | 334 | \$ 73,531 |
| Other revenues | 61,217 | | |
| TOTAL REVENUES | 5,562,206 | 888,158 | 73,531 |
| EXPENDITURES | | | |
| Regular programs | 2,233,477 | 32,554 | |
| Special education | 174,604 | 193,198 | |
| Career education programs | 198,912 | | |
| Compensatory education programs | 38,353 | 165,933 | |
| Other instructional programs | 45,521 | | |
| Student support services | 224,595 | 95,989 | |
| Instructional staff support services | 294,279 | 42,931 | |
| General administration support services | 197,579 | | |
| School administration support services | 355,068 | | |
| Central services support services | 124,505 | 9,332 | |
| Operation and maintenance of plant services | 605,277 | 6,066 | 28,875 |
| Student transportation services | 542,481 | 2,000 | |
| Other support services | 26,982 | | |
| Food services operations | | 390,494 | |
| Other enterprise operations | 1,318 | | |
| Community services operations | | 1,148 | |
| Facilities acquisition and construction services | 168,087 | | 21 |
| Non-programmed costs | | 3,891 | |
| Activity expenditures | 136,051 | | |
| Debt Service: | | | |
| Principal retirement | | | 100,000 |
| Interest and fiscal charges | | | 106,935 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | 5,367,089 | 943,536 | 235,831 |
| EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES | 195,117 | (55,378) | (162,300) |
| OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES) | | | |
| Transfers in | 150,000 | | 206,935 |
| Transfers out | (206,935) | | (150,000) |
| TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES) | (56,935) | | 56,935 |
| EXCESS OF REVENUES AND OTHER SOURCES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES AND OTHER USES | 138,182 | (55,378) | (105,365) |
| FUND BALANCES - JULY 1 | 1,048,774 | 132,669 | 2,372,003 |
| FUND BALANCES - JUNE 30 | \$ 1,186,956 | \$ 77,291 | \$ 2,266,638 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

BEARDEN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 53
 OUACHITA COUNTY, ARKANSAS
 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, 2025

Exhibit C

| | General | | | Special Revenue | | |
|---|------------------|------------------|--|------------------|----------------|--|
| | Budget | Actual | Variance Favorable (Unfavorable) | Budget | Actual | Variance Favorable (Unfavorable) |
| REVENUES | | | | | | |
| Property taxes (including property tax relief trust distribution) | \$ 1,434,000 | \$ 1,514,369 | \$ 80,369 | | | |
| State assistance | 3,661,134 | 3,813,967 | 152,833 | \$ 6,000 | \$ 7,699 | \$ 1,699 |
| Federal assistance | | | | 925,025 | 830,536 | (94,489) |
| Activity revenues | 38,250 | 140,734 | 102,484 | | | |
| Meal sales | | | | 47,000 | 49,589 | 2,589 |
| Investment income | 22,250 | 31,919 | 9,669 | 750 | 334 | (416) |
| Other revenues | 63,000 | 61,217 | (1,783) | | | |
| TOTAL REVENUES | 5,218,634 | 5,562,206 | 343,572 | 978,775 | 888,158 | (90,617) |
| EXPENDITURES | | | | | | |
| Regular programs | 2,372,825 | 2,233,477 | 139,348 | 77,138 | 32,554 | 44,584 |
| Special education | 180,095 | 174,604 | 5,491 | 186,925 | 193,198 | (6,273) |
| Career education programs | 198,341 | 198,912 | (571) | | | |
| Compensatory education programs | 42,688 | 38,353 | 4,335 | 177,401 | 165,933 | 11,468 |
| Other instructional programs | 59,532 | 45,521 | 14,011 | | | |
| Student support services | 266,969 | 224,595 | 42,374 | 89,447 | 95,989 | (6,542) |
| Instructional staff support services | 332,591 | 294,279 | 38,312 | 64,991 | 42,931 | 22,060 |
| General administration support services | 220,839 | 197,579 | 23,260 | | | |
| School administration support services | 361,567 | 355,068 | 6,499 | 184 | | 184 |
| Central services support services | 121,351 | 124,505 | (3,154) | 11,774 | 9,332 | 2,442 |
| Operation and maintenance of plant services | 698,590 | 605,277 | 93,313 | 5,566 | 6,066 | (500) |
| Student transportation services | 516,507 | 542,481 | (25,974) | 7,790 | 2,000 | 5,790 |
| Other support services | 17,500 | 26,982 | (9,482) | | | |
| Food services operations | | | | 408,551 | 390,494 | 18,057 |
| Other enterprise operations | 7,364 | 1,318 | 6,046 | | | |
| Community services operations | | | | 1,750 | 1,148 | 602 |
| Facilities acquisition and construction services | 27,000 | 168,087 | (141,087) | | | |
| Non-programmed costs | | | | 3,423 | 3,891 | (468) |
| Activity expenditures | 37,250 | 136,051 | (98,801) | | | |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | 5,461,009 | 5,367,089 | 93,920 | 1,034,940 | 943,536 | 91,404 |

BEARDEN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 53
 OUACHITA COUNTY, ARKANSAS
 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, 2025

Exhibit C

| | General | | | Special Revenue | | |
|---|-------------------|---------------------|--|------------------|------------------|--|
| | Budget | Actual | Variance Favorable (Unfavorable) | Budget | Actual | Variance Favorable (Unfavorable) |
| EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES | \$ (242,375) | \$ 195,117 | \$ 437,492 | \$ (56,165) | \$ (55,378) | \$ 787 |
| OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES) | | | | | | |
| Transfers in | 6,588,153 | 150,000 | (6,438,153) | 36,161 | | (36,161) |
| Transfers out | (6,868,715) | (206,935) | 6,661,780 | (36,161) | | 36,161 |
| TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES) | (280,562) | (56,935) | 223,627 | 0 | | 0 |
| EXCESS OF REVENUES AND OTHER SOURCES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES AND OTHER USES | (522,937) | 138,182 | 661,119 | (56,165) | (55,378) | 787 |
| FUND BALANCES - JULY 1 | 1,054,199 | 1,048,774 | (5,425) | 129,621 | 132,669 | 3,048 |
| FUND BALANCES - JUNE 30 | <u>\$ 531,262</u> | <u>\$ 1,186,956</u> | <u>\$ 655,694</u> | <u>\$ 73,456</u> | <u>\$ 77,291</u> | <u>\$ 3,835</u> |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

BEARDEN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 53
OUACHITA COUNTY, ARKANSAS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2025

1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Reporting Entity

The Board of Education, a seven member group, is the level of government, which has responsibilities over all activities related to public elementary and secondary school education within the jurisdiction of the Bearden School District (District). There are no component units.

B. Description of Funds

Major governmental funds (per the regulatory basis of accounting) are defined as General and Special Revenue.

General Fund - The General Fund is used to account for and report all financial resources 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 restricted or committed to expenditure for specified purposes other than debt service. The Special Revenue Fund includes federal revenues and related expenditures, restricted for specific educational programs or projects, including the District's food services operations. The Special Revenue Fund also includes required matching for those federal programs, program income required to be used to further the objectives of those programs, and transfers from the general fund to supplement such programs.

Other governmental funds, presented in the aggregate, consist of the following:

Capital Projects Fund – The Capital Projects Fund is used to account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for capital outlays including the acquisition or construction of capital facilities and other capital assets. The Capital Projects Fund excludes those types of capital-related outflows financed by proprietary funds or for assets that will be held in trust for individuals, private organizations, or other governments.

Debt Service Fund – The Debt Service Fund is used to account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for principal and interest.

Fiduciary Fund types include the following:

Private-purpose Funds – Private-purpose funds are used to report all other arrangements under which principal and income benefit individuals, private organizations, or other governments.

C. 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 Ark. Code Ann. § 10-4-413(c) and requires that financial statements be presented on a fund basis with, as a minimum, the general fund and special revenue fund presented separately and all other funds included in the audit presented in the aggregate. The law also stipulates that the financial statements consist of a balance sheet; a statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances; a comparison of the final adopted budget to the actual expenditures for the general fund and special revenue funds of the entity; notes to financial statements; and a supplemental schedule of capital assets, including land, buildings, and equipment. The law further stipulates that the State Board of Education shall promulgate the rules necessary to administer the regulatory basis of presentation.

The RBA is not in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). GAAP require that basic financial statements present government-wide financial statements. Additionally, 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 compensated absences and 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.

BEARDEN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 53
 OUACHITA COUNTY, ARKANSAS
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 JUNE 30, 2025

1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

C. 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. Major governmental funds are defined as general and special revenue, and such funds are presented separately in the financial statements. All other governmental funds are presented in the aggregate. Fiduciary fund types are presented in a separate column in the Balance Sheet – Regulatory Basis. 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. Transactions related to the recording of installment contracts and financed purchases are reported as other financing sources. Changes in private-purpose funds will be reflected in the notes to financial statements.

D. Revenue Recognition Policies

Revenues are recognized when they become susceptible to accrual in accordance with the RBA, except for property taxes (see Note 1 F below).

E. Capital Assets

Information on capital assets and related depreciation is reported at Schedule 1. Capital assets are capitalized at historical cost or estimated historical cost, if actual data 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 District maintains a threshold level of \$1,000 for capitalizing equipment. Library holdings are not capitalized.

No salvage value is taken into consideration for depreciation purposes. All capital assets, other than land and construction in progress, are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following useful lives:

| Asset Class | Estimated Useful Life in Years |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Improvements/infrastructure | 20 |
| Buildings | 50 |
| Equipment | 5-20 |

F. Property Taxes

Property taxes are levied (tax rates are established) in November of each year based on property assessment (real and personal) that occurred within a specific period of time beginning January 1 of the same year. Property taxes are collectible beginning the first business day of March of the year following the levy date and are considered delinquent after October 15 of the same calendar year.

Amendment no. 74 to the Arkansas Constitution established a uniform minimum property tax millage rate of 25 mills for maintenance and operation of public schools. Ark. Code Ann. § 26-80-101 provides the uniform rate of tax (URT) shall be assessed and collected in the same manner as other school property taxes, but the net revenues from the URT shall be remitted to the State Treasurer and distributed by the State to the county treasurer of each county for distribution to the school districts in that county. For reporting purposes, URT revenues are considered property taxes.

G. Fund Balance Classifications

1. Restricted fund balance – represents amounts that are restricted to specific purposes when constraints placed on the use of resources are either (a) externally imposed by creditors (such as through bond covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or (b) imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

BEARDEN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 53
OUACHITA COUNTY, ARKANSAS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2025

1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

G. Fund Balance Classifications (Continued)

2. Assigned fund balance – represents amounts that are constrained by the District's *intent* to be used for specific purposes, but are neither restricted nor committed.
3. Unassigned fund balance – represents amounts that have not been assigned to other funds and that has not been restricted, committed, or assigned to specific purposes within the general fund. This classification can also include negative amounts in other governmental funds, if expenditures incurred for specific purposes exceeded the amounts restricted, committed, or assigned to those purposes.

H. Fund Balance Classification Policies and Procedures

The Superintendent, in conjunction with other management and accounting personnel, is authorized to assign amounts to a specific purpose. The District's Board of Education has not adopted a formal policy addressing this authorization.

The District's revenues, expenditures, and fund balances are tracked in the accounting system by numerous sources of funds. The fund balances of these sources of funds are combined to derive the District's total fund balances by fund. It is uncommon for an individual source of funds to contain restricted and unrestricted (committed, assigned, or unassigned) funds. The District does not have a policy addressing whether it considers restricted or unrestricted amounts to have been spent when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted amounts are available. District personnel decide which resources (source of funds) to use at the time expenditures are incurred. For classification of fund balance amounts, restricted resources are considered spent before unrestricted. The District does not have a policy addressing which resources to use within the unrestricted fund balances when committed, assigned, or unassigned fund balances are available. When expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used, committed amounts are reduced first, followed by assigned amounts, and then unassigned amounts.

I. Stabilization Arrangements

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

J. Minimum Fund Balance Policies

The District's Board of Education has not formally adopted a minimum fund balance policy.

K. Budget and Budgetary Accounting

The District is required by state law to prepare an annual budget. The annual budget is prepared on a fiscal year basis. The District does not prepare and submit amended budgets during the fiscal year. The State Department of Education's regulations allow for the cash basis or the modified accrual basis. However, the majority of the school districts employ the cash basis method.

The District budgets intra-fund transfers. Significant variances may result in the comparison of transfers at the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget and Actual – General and Special Revenue Funds – Regulatory Basis because only interfund transfers are reported at the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Governmental Funds – Regulatory Basis. Additionally, the District routinely budgets restricted federal programs as part of the special revenue fund.

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.

BEARDEN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 53
 OUACHITA COUNTY, ARKANSAS
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 JUNE 30, 2025

1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

L. Encumbrances

The District does not utilize encumbrance accounting.

2: CASH DEPOSITS WITH FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Cash deposits are carried at cost. The District's cash deposits at June 30, 2025, were as follows:

| | Bank Balance |
|---|-----------------|
| Insured (FDIC) | \$ 250,000 |
| Collateralized: | |
| Collateral held by the pledging financial institution's trust department or agent in the District's name | 3,648,944 |
| Total Deposits | \$ 3,898,944 |

The above total deposits do not include cash of \$14,467 which was held in the Calhoun County Treasury. The above total deposits include certificates of deposit of \$1,905,194 reported as investments and classified as nonparticipating contracts.

3: INVESTMENTS

The District had 82.25 shares of General Electric Stock, 27 shares of GE Healthcare Technologies Stock, 20 shares of GE Vernova Stock, and 3 shares of Wabtec Corporation Stock with a fair value of \$34,271 at June 30, 2025, which is comprised of all investments reported in the District's fiduciary fund types.

Fair value of investments - Fair value measurements are based on the fair value hierarchy as follows:

- Level 1 - Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets
- Level 2 - Significant other observable inputs
- Level 3 - Significant unobservable inputs

Of the above investments, \$34,271 are classified in Level 1. There are no investments classified in Level 2 or Level 3.

4: ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

Accounts receivable at June 30, 2025, were comprised of the following:

| Description | Governmental Funds | |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | Major | |
| | General | Special Revenue |
| State assistance | \$ 13,877 | |
| Federal assistance | | \$ 54,374 |
| Meal sales | | 2,744 |
| Totals | \$ 13,877 | \$ 57,118 |

BEARDEN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 53
 OUACHITA COUNTY, ARKANSAS
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 JUNE 30, 2025

5: ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Accounts payable at June 30, 2025, were comprised of the following:

| Description | Governmental Funds | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | Major | | |
| | General | Special Revenue | Other Aggregate |
| Vendor payables | \$ 35,217 | \$ 305 | \$ 8,854 |

6: COMMITMENTS

The District was contractually obligated for the following at June 30, 2025:

A. Lease (lease of nonfinancial assets with initial noncancelable lease terms in excess of one year)

General description of lease and leasing arrangements: On June 27, 2023, the District entered into a noncancelable agreement for a bus. The agreement stipulated three annual payments of \$19,230 and a final payment of \$67,875.

Future minimum lease payments for the succeeding years:

| Year Ended June 30, | Amount |
|---------------------|-----------|
| 2026 | \$ 67,875 |

Lease payments were approximately \$19,230 for the year ended June 30, 2025.

B. Long-term Debt Issued and Outstanding

The District is presently paying on the following long-term debt:

| Date of Issue | Date of Final Maturity | Rate of Interest | Amount Authorized and Issued | Debt Outstanding June 30, 2025 | Maturities To June 30, 2025 |
|------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Bonds | | | | | |
| 11/28/17 | 2/1/48 | 2 - 3.5% | \$ 3,905,000 | \$ 3,260,000 | \$ 645,000 |

Changes in Long-term Debt

| | Balance July 1, 2024 | Issued | Retired | Balance June 30, 2025 |
|---------------|-------------------------|--------|------------|--------------------------|
| Bonds payable | \$ 3,360,000 | \$ 0 | \$ 100,000 | \$ 3,260,000 |

BEARDEN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 53
 OUACHITA COUNTY, ARKANSAS
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 JUNE 30, 2025

6: COMMITMENTS (Continued)

B. Long-term Debt Issued and Outstanding (Continued)

Future Principal and Interest Payments

| Year Ended June 30, | Bonds | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | Principal | Interest | Total |
| 2026 | \$ 105,000 | \$ 104,285 | \$ 209,285 |
| 2027 | 105,000 | 101,923 | 206,923 |
| 2028 | 110,000 | 99,298 | 209,298 |
| 2029 | 110,000 | 96,548 | 206,548 |
| 2030 | 115,000 | 93,578 | 208,578 |
| 2031-2035 | 615,000 | 417,743 | 1,032,743 |
| 2036-2040 | 710,000 | 314,181 | 1,024,181 |
| 2041-2045 | 825,000 | 186,656 | 1,011,656 |
| 2046-2048 | 565,000 | 40,074 | 605,074 |
| Totals | \$ 3,260,000 | \$ 1,454,286 | \$ 4,714,286 |

Security for Debt Payments

Ark. Code Ann. § 6-20-1204 specifies procedures to be followed if a school district is delinquent in a payment to the paying agent for bonded debt. As additional security, any delinquent payment for bonded debt will be satisfied by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Depending on the date of the bond issue, DESE will recover the full amount of any delinquency payment through the withholding of a school district's state funding or a direct payment from the school district. There were no delinquent bond payments incurred by the District during the audit period.

7: PLEDGED REVENUES

The District has pledged a portion of its property taxes to retire bonds of \$3,905,000 issued on November 28, 2017. The bonds were issued for various capital projects. Total principal and interest remaining on the bonds is \$4,714,286, payable through February 1, 2048. Principal and interest paid for the current year and total property taxes pledged for debt service were \$206,535 and \$429,577, respectively. The percentage of property taxes pledged for the current year for principal and interest payments was 48.08 percent.

8: INTERFUND TRANSFERS

The District transferred \$206,935 from the general fund to the other aggregate funds for debt related payments. Additionally, the District transferred \$150,000, previously assigned for capital expenditures, from the other aggregate funds to the general fund for the purchase of a school bus.

BEARDEN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 53
 OUACHITA COUNTY, ARKANSAS
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 JUNE 30, 2025

9: RETIREMENT PLAN

Arkansas Teacher Retirement System

Plan Description

The District 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. The Arkansas Teacher Retirement System 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, by calling 501-682-1517, or by visiting the ATRS website at www.artrs.gov.

Funding Policy

ATRS has contributory and noncontributory 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 Board of Trustees, based on the annual actuarial valuation. The current employer rate is 15% of covered salaries. The District's contributions to ATRS for the year ended June 30, 2025, were \$533,779, equal to the required contributions.

Net Pension Liability

The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education has stipulated that, under the regulatory basis of accounting, the requirements of Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement no. 68 would be limited to disclosure of the District's proportionate share of the collective net pension liability. The District's proportionate share of the collective net pension liability at June 30, 2024, (actuarial valuation date and measurement date) was \$4,265,170.

10: CHANGES IN PRIVATE-PURPOSE FUNDS

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| ADDITIONS | |
| Dividends | \$ 13 |
| Gain on investments | <u>14,978</u> |
| TOTAL ADDITIONS | <u>14,991</u> |
| CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE | 14,991 |
| FUND BALANCE - JULY 1 | <u>24,258</u> |
| FUND BALANCE - JUNE 30 | <u><u>\$ 39,249</u></u> |

11: RISK MANAGEMENT

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; and natural disasters.

The District carries commercial insurance for student accidents and liability insurance for board members, administration, faculty, and staff.

The District participates in the Arkansas School Boards 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 District contributes annually to this program.

BEARDEN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 53
 OUACHITA COUNTY, ARKANSAS
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 JUNE 30, 2025

11: RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)

Additionally, the District participates in the Arkansas School Boards Association – Risk Management Program (the Association), a self-insurance program voluntarily established on February 1, 1984, pursuant to state law. The Association is responsible for obtaining and administering insurance coverage for property and vehicles for its members, as well as obtaining reinsurance coverage for those claims that exceed the standard policy limits. In its administrative capacity, the Association is responsible for monitoring, negotiating, and settling claims that have been filed against member districts. The District pays an annual premium for its coverage of buildings, contents, and vehicles.

The District participates in the Arkansas Fidelity Bond Trust Fund administered by the Governmental Bonding Board. This program provides coverage for actual losses sustained by its members through fraudulent or dishonest acts committed by officials or employees. Each loss is limited to \$300,000 with a \$2,500 deductible. Premiums for coverage are paid by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State of Arkansas from funds withheld from the Public School Fund.

Settled claims have not exceeded coverage in any of the past three fiscal years. There were no significant reductions in insurance coverage from the prior year in the major categories of risk.

12: ON-BEHALF PAYMENTS

The allocation of the health insurance premiums paid by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education to the Employee Benefits Division, on-behalf of the District’s employees, totaled \$107,167 for the year ended June 30, 2025.

13: DETAILS OF GOVERNMENTAL FUND BALANCE CLASSIFICATIONS DISPLAYED IN THE AGGREGATE

| Description | Governmental Funds | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| | Major | | Other |
| | General | Special Revenue | Aggregate |
| Fund Balances: | | | |
| Restricted for: | | | |
| Alternative learning environment | \$ 15,874 | | |
| Enhanced student achievement funding | 17,997 | | |
| English-language learners | 967 | | |
| Professional development | 24,524 | | |
| Child nutrition programs | | \$ 19,714 | |
| Medical services | | 48,921 | |
| Special education programs | 52,329 | | |
| Other purposes | 16,030 | 8,656 | |
| Total Restricted | <u>127,721</u> | <u>77,291</u> | |
| Assigned to: | | | |
| Capital projects | | | \$ 2,266,638 |
| Student activities | 72,122 | | |
| Total Assigned | <u>72,122</u> | | <u>2,266,638</u> |
| Unassigned | <u>987,113</u> | | |
| Totals | <u>\$1,186,956</u> | <u>\$ 77,291</u> | <u>\$ 2,266,638</u> |

BEARDEN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 53
 OUACHITA COUNTY, ARKANSAS
 SCHEDULE OF CAPITAL ASSETS
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025
 (Unaudited)

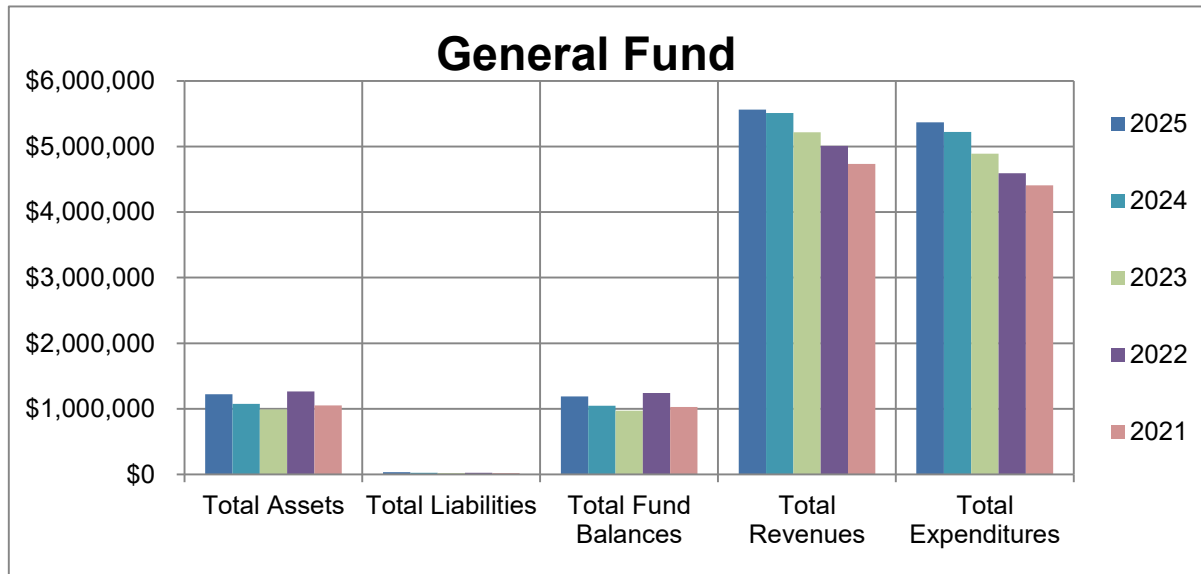
Schedule 1

| | Balance June 30, 2025 |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Nondepreciable capital assets: | |
| Land | \$ 153,190 |
| Depreciable capital assets: | |
| Buildings | 8,346,212 |
| Improvements/infrastructure | 559,442 |
| Equipment | 2,593,108 |
| Total depreciable capital assets | 11,498,762 |
| Less accumulated depreciation for: | |
| Buildings | 5,239,206 |
| Improvements/infrastructure | 273,145 |
| Equipment | 1,648,267 |
| Total accumulated depreciation | 7,160,618 |
| Total depreciable capital assets, net | 4,338,144 |
| Capital assets, net | \$ 4,491,334 |

BEARDEN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 53
 OUACHITA COUNTY, ARKANSAS
 SCHEDULE OF SELECTED INFORMATION FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS - REGULATORY BASIS
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025
 (Unaudited)

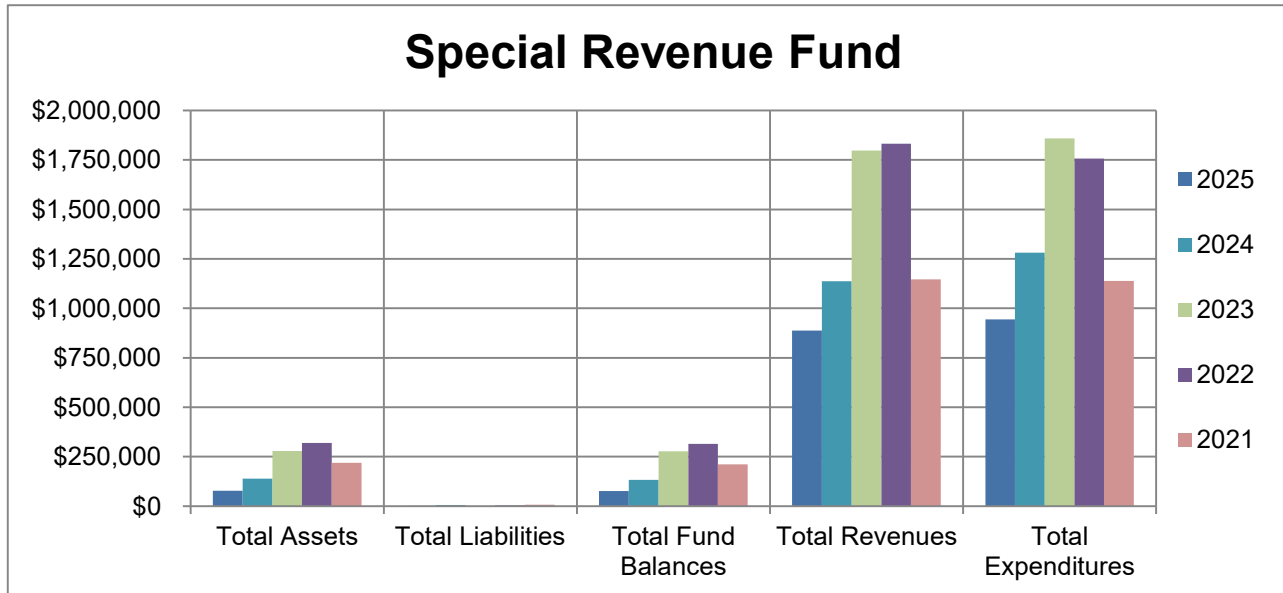
Schedule 2

| <u>General Fund</u> | Year Ended June 30, | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 2025 | 2024 | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 |
| Total Assets | \$ 1,222,173 | \$ 1,073,497 | \$ 990,978 | \$ 1,265,215 | \$ 1,050,011 |
| Total Liabilities | 35,217 | 24,723 | 20,991 | 25,167 | 19,432 |
| Total Fund Balances | 1,186,956 | 1,048,774 | 969,987 | 1,240,048 | 1,030,579 |
| Total Revenues | 5,562,206 | 5,509,185 | 5,217,897 | 5,011,768 | 4,736,841 |
| Total Expenditures | 5,367,089 | 5,221,463 | 4,890,565 | 4,594,564 | 4,408,066 |
| Total Other Financing Sources (Uses) | (56,935) | (208,935) | (597,393) | (207,735) | (259,504) |



BEARDEN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 53
 OUACHITA COUNTY, ARKANSAS
 SCHEDULE OF SELECTED INFORMATION FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS - REGULATORY BASIS
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025
 (Unaudited)

| Special Revenue Fund | Year Ended June 30, | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 2025 | 2024 | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 |
| Total Assets | \$ 77,596 | \$ 138,903 | \$ 278,814 | \$ 319,971 | \$ 218,906 |
| Total Liabilities | 305 | 6,234 | 1,446 | 4,250 | 8,200 |
| Total Fund Balances | 77,291 | 132,669 | 277,368 | 315,721 | 210,706 |
| Total Revenues | 888,158 | 1,136,472 | 1,798,025 | 1,832,234 | 1,147,174 |
| Total Expenditures | 943,536 | 1,281,171 | 1,858,022 | 1,756,400 | 1,138,479 |
| Total Other Financing Sources (Uses) | | | 21,644 | 29,181 | |



BEARDEN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 53
 OUACHITA COUNTY, ARKANSAS
 SCHEDULE OF SELECTED INFORMATION FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS - REGULATORY BASIS
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025
 (Unaudited)

Schedule 2

| Other Aggregate Funds | Year Ended June 30, | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 2025 | 2024 | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 |
| Total Assets | \$ 2,275,492 | \$ 2,372,003 | \$ 2,324,670 | \$ 1,901,838 | \$ 1,973,813 |
| Total Liabilities | 8,854 | | | | |
| Total Fund Balances | 2,266,638 | 2,372,003 | 2,324,670 | 1,901,838 | 1,973,813 |
| Total Revenues | 73,531 | 67,972 | 149,765 | 12,955 | 24,473 |
| Total Expenditures | 235,831 | 229,574 | 324,326 | 292,665 | 865,540 |
| Total Other Financing Sources (Uses) | 56,935 | 208,935 | 597,393 | 207,735 | 259,504 |

