

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8
Benton, Arkansas

REGULATORY BASIS FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AND SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

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COBB AND SUSKIE, LTD.

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Michael L. Cobb

Anne Suskie Pinyan

Independent Auditors' Report

The Board of Education
Benton School District No. 8
Benton, Arkansas

Report on the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of each major governmental fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Benton School District No. 8 (the "District"), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, 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, 2024, 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 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, 2024, or the changes in financial position for the year then ended.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with accounting 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 Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit for 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 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 § 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 presentation 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.

Auditors' 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 auditors' 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 *Governmental 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 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 *Governmental Auditing Standards*, we

- Exercise professional judgement 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 expensing 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 findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise District's regulatory basis financial statements. 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 purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the regulatory basis financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the 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 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 Billable Units but does not include the regulatory basis financial statements, supplementary information, and our auditors' 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 10, 2025, on our consideration of 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 the 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 internal part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Cobb and Suskie, Ltd.

Certified Public Accountants
March 10, 2025

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8
BALANCE SHEET - REGULATORY BASIS
JUNE 30, 2024

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Special Revenue Fund</u>	<u>Other Governmental Funds</u>
ASSETS			
Cash	\$ 8,478,067	\$ 2,071,213	\$ 19,923,427
Funds with Escrow Agent	-	-	6,018,586
Accounts Receivable	-	231,969	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 8,478,067</u>	<u>\$ 2,303,182</u>	<u>\$ 25,942,013</u>
 LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES			
Liabilities:			
Accounts Payable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Governmental Payable	-	-	-
Due to Student Groups	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Liabilities	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
 Fund Balances:			
Unreserved	8,478,067	-	-
Reserved	-	2,303,182	25,942,013
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Fund Balances	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	<u>\$ 8,478,067</u>	<u>\$ 2,303,182</u>	<u>\$ 25,942,013</u>

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

Total Governmental <u>Funds</u>	Fiduciary Fund <u>Types</u>
\$ 30,472,707	\$ 35,205
6,018,586	-
<u>231,969</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>\$ 36,723,262</u>	<u>\$ 35,205</u>
\$ -	\$ -
-	-
-	35,205
<u>-</u>	<u>35,205</u>
8,478,067	-
<u>28,245,195</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>36,723,262</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>\$ 36,723,262</u>	<u>\$ 35,205</u>

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN
FUND BALANCES - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS - REGULATORY BASIS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	General <u>Fund</u>	Special Revenue <u>Fund</u>	Other Governmental <u>Funds</u>	Total Governmental <u>Funds</u>
REVENUES:				
Local Property Taxes	\$ 23,811,274	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,811,274
State Sources	35,309,791	41,627	6,812,630	42,164,048
Federal Sources	-	7,627,771	-	7,627,771
Food Services	-	862,606	-	862,606
Other Sources	67,113	-	-	67,113
Student Activities	830,651	-	-	830,651
Interest	1,107,583	-	77,589	1,185,172
Total Revenues	<u>61,126,412</u>	<u>8,532,004</u>	<u>6,890,219</u>	<u>76,548,635</u>
EXPENDITURES:				
<u>Instruction</u>				
Regular Instruction	24,178,784	274,983	-	24,453,767
Special Instruction	3,177,691	1,589,296	-	4,766,987
Vocational Instruction	1,592,268	191,081	-	1,783,349
Compensatory Instruction	2,576	-	-	2,576
Other Instruction	2,006,975	24,628	-	2,031,603
Total Instruction	<u>30,958,294</u>	<u>2,079,988</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>33,038,282</u>
<u>Support Services</u>				
Student Support Services	2,529,363	586,663	-	3,116,026
Instructional Support Services	3,176,250	1,287,086	-	4,463,336
General Administration Services	1,211,270	19,822	-	1,231,092
School Administration Services	3,105,865	65,232	-	3,171,097
Business Support Services	2,129,488	-	-	2,129,488
Other Support Services	62,652	11,929	-	74,581
Operations and Maintenance	6,029,167	42,096	-	6,071,263
Pupil Transportation Services	1,920,394	-	-	1,920,394
Non Program Services	-	-	-	-
Food Services	101,813	2,541,399	-	2,643,212
Community Services	75,340	-	-	75,340
Debt Service - Principal	626,487	-	2,350,000	2,976,487
Debt Service - Interest	34,908	-	3,366,943	3,401,851
Activity Expenditures	1,003,084	-	-	1,003,084
Capital Outlays	1,352,960	163,633	881,110	2,397,703
Building Acquisitions	395,322	1,687,292	19,994,474	22,077,088
Total Support Services	<u>23,754,363</u>	<u>6,405,152</u>	<u>26,592,527</u>	<u>56,752,042</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>54,712,657</u>	<u>8,485,140</u>	<u>26,592,527</u>	<u>89,790,324</u>

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

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND
BALANCES - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS - REGULATORY BASIS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	General Fund	Special Revenue Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	<u>\$ 6,413,755</u>	<u>\$ 46,864</u>	<u>\$ (19,702,308)</u>	<u>\$ (13,241,689)</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Sale of Capital Assets	52,825	-	-	52,825
Transfers In	-	-	7,189,855	7,189,855
Transfers Out	<u>(7,189,855)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(7,189,855)</u>
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	<u>(7,137,030)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,189,855</u>	<u>52,825</u>
Excess of Revenues and Other Sources Over (Under) Expenditures and Other Uses	(723,275)	46,864	(12,512,453)	(13,188,864)
Fund Balances, Beginning of Year	<u>9,201,342</u>	<u>2,256,318</u>	<u>38,454,466</u>	<u>49,912,126</u>
Fund Balances, End of Year	<u>\$ 8,478,067</u>	<u>\$ 2,303,182</u>	<u>\$ 25,942,013</u>	<u>\$ 36,723,262</u>

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

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8
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, 2024

	GENERAL FUND		
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Revenues:			
Property Taxes	\$ 23,312,500	\$ 23,811,274	\$ 498,774
State Sources	34,676,256	35,309,791	633,535
Federal Sources	-	-	-
Other Local Sources	-	-	-
Food Services	-	-	-
Other Sources	86,000	67,113	(18,887)
Student Activities	-	830,651	830,651
Interest	800,000	1,107,583	307,583
Total Revenues	<u>58,874,756</u>	<u>61,126,412</u>	<u>2,251,656</u>
Expenditures:			
Instruction:			
Regular Instruction	24,130,603	24,178,784	(48,181)
Special Instruction	3,408,917	3,177,691	231,226
Vocational Instruction	1,503,250	1,592,268	(89,018)
Compensatory Instruction	16,420	2,576	13,844
Other Instruction	1,955,338	2,006,975	(51,637)
Total Instruction	<u>31,014,528</u>	<u>30,958,294</u>	<u>56,234</u>
Support Services:			
Student Support Services	2,834,008	2,529,363	304,645
Instructional Staff Services	3,271,780	3,176,250	95,530
General Administration Services	1,247,307	1,211,270	36,037
School Administration Services	3,138,405	3,105,865	32,540
Business Support Services	2,003,048	2,129,488	(126,440)
Other Support Services	30,000	62,652	(32,652)
Operations and Maintenance	5,717,530	6,029,167	(311,637)
Pupil Transportation Services	1,637,241	1,920,394	(283,153)
Non Program Services	-	-	-
Food Services	60,000	101,813	(41,813)
Community Services	77,572	75,340	2,232
Debt Service	661,418	661,395	23
Activity Expenditures	-	1,003,084	(1,003,084)
Capital Outlay	1,139,408	1,352,960	(213,552)
Building Acquisitions	35,000	395,322	(360,322)
Total Support Services	<u>21,852,717</u>	<u>23,754,363</u>	<u>(1,901,646)</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>52,867,245</u>	<u>54,712,657</u>	<u>(1,845,412)</u>
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	<u>6,007,511</u>	<u>6,413,755</u>	<u>406,244</u>

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

SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance</u>
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
15,000	41,627	26,627
7,097,965	7,627,771	529,806
-	-	-
950,000	862,606	(87,394)
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
8,062,965	8,532,004	469,039
269,178	274,983	(5,805)
1,384,812	1,589,296	(204,484)
-	191,081	(191,081)
208,392	-	208,392
44,187	24,628	19,559
1,906,569	2,079,988	(173,419)
396,115	586,663	(190,548)
1,031,893	1,287,086	(255,193)
33,438	19,822	13,616
-	65,232	(65,232)
-	-	-
-	11,929	(11,929)
14,000	42,096	(28,096)
-	-	-
-	-	-
2,902,242	2,541,399	360,843
18,360	-	18,360
-	-	-
-	-	-
24,794	163,633	(138,839)
1,701,102	1,687,292	13,810
6,121,944	6,405,152	(283,208)
8,028,513	8,485,140	(456,627)
34,452	46,864	12,412

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8
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, 2024

	GENERAL FUND		
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Other Financing Sources (Uses):			
Sale of Capital Assets	-	52,825	52,825
Transfers In	-	-	-
Transfers Out	<u>(5,716,491)</u>	<u>(7,189,855)</u>	<u>(1,473,364)</u>
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	<u>(5,716,491)</u>	<u>(7,137,030)</u>	<u>(1,420,539)</u>
Excess of Revenues and Other Sources Over (Under) Expenditures and Other Uses	291,020	(723,275)	(1,420,539)
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year	<u>8,118,339</u>	<u>9,201,342</u>	<u>1,083,003</u>
Fund Balance - End of Year	<u>\$ 8,409,359</u>	<u>\$ 8,478,067</u>	<u>\$ (337,536)</u>

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

SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance</u>
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
34,452	46,864	11,412
2,256,317	2,256,318	1
<u>\$ 2,290,769</u>	<u>\$ 2,303,182</u>	<u>\$ 11,413</u>

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Reporting Entity

The Board of Education, a group of seven (7) permanent members, is the level of government which has governing responsibilities over all activities related to public elementary and secondary school education within the jurisdiction of the Benton School District No. 8 (the District). The Board receives funding from local, state and federal government sources and must comply with the concomitant requirements of these funding source entities. However, the Board of Education is not included in any other governmental "reporting entity", since Board members are elected by the public and have decision making authority, the power to designate management, the responsibility to significantly influence operations, and primary accountability for fiscal matters.

Only the accounts of the Benton School District No. 8 are included in these statements, and there are no component units that are or should be included in the District's reporting entity.

B. Basis of Presentation

(1) Regulatory Basis of Presentation

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with a regulatory basis of accounting. 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 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 the 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.

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

B. Basis of Presentation (Continued)

(1) Regulatory Basis of Presentation (Continued)

The regulatory basis of accounting differs from the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). GAAP requires that basic financial statements, in addition to presenting entity-wide financial statements, incorporate the following: Management's Discussion and Analysis, separate financial statements for fiduciary fund types, separate identification of special and extraordinary items, capital assets, other non-financial assets and long-term liabilities, specific procedures for the identification of major governmental funds and applicable note disclosures. The prescribed regulatory basis does not require these statements and concepts, nor does it generally adhere to or address pronouncements of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB).

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 financial sources and uses.

C. Fund Accounting

Fund accounting focuses on the sources, uses, and balances of current financial resources. Expendable assets are assigned to the various governmental funds according to the purposes for which they are to be used. Current liabilities are assigned to the fund from which they will be paid. The difference between governmental fund assets and liabilities is reported as fund balance. The following are the District's major governmental funds as prescribed under the regulatory basis:

(1) General Fund

The General Fund is the operating fund of the District and is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund. The General Fund balance is available to the District for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to the general laws of Arkansas.

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

C. Fund Accounting (Continued)

(2) Special Revenue Fund

The Special Revenue Fund is used to account for specific revenue sources which are designated by law or contractual agreement for specified functions or activities and are legally required to be accounted for in separate funds.

(3) Other Governmental Funds

Other governmental funds consist of the Debt Service Fund and the Capital Projects Fund. The Debt Service Fund is used for accumulation of resources for payment of principal, interest and related costs on general long-term debt. Payments for retirement of principal and interest are remitted to independent fiscal paying agents. The Capital Projects Fund is used to account for financial resources that will be expended for the acquisition or construction of major capital facilities (other than those financed by proprietary funds or in trust funds for individuals, private organizations or other governments).

(4) Fiduciary Funds

Fiduciary fund reporting focuses on net assets and changes in net assets. The fiduciary fund category is made up of agency funds. Trust funds are used to account for assets held by the District under a trust agreement for individuals, private organizations, or other governments and are therefore not available to support the District's own programs. The agency fund is custodial in nature (assets equal liabilities) and does not involve measurements of results of operations. The District's agency fund accounts for those student activity programs which have student participation in the activity and have students involved in the management of the program. This fund typically includes those student activities which consist of a student body, student president, student treasurer, and faculty advisor.

D. Regulatory Basis of Accounting / Measurement Focus

Basis of accounting determines when transactions are recorded in the financial records and reported in the financial statements. Governmental funds use the modified accrual basis of accounting. Fiduciary funds also use the accrual basis of accounting.

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

D. Regulatory Basis of Accounting / Measurement Focus (Continued)

The regulatory basis financial statements are prepared using a current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting, with some exception. With the exception of property taxes, revenues are recognized when susceptible to accrual, i.e. both measurable and available. Available means collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay current liabilities.

With the exception of property taxes, the District considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days after the end of the current fiscal period. State and federal grants and interest associated with the current fiscal period are all considered to be susceptible to accrual.

(1) Revenue-Exchange and Non-exchange Transactions

Revenue resulting from exchange transactions, in which each party gives and receives essentially equal value, is recorded on the accrual basis when the exchange takes place. On a modified accrual basis, revenue is recorded in the fiscal year in which the resources will be collected within the current fiscal year or are expected to be collected soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current fiscal year.

Non-exchange transactions, in which the District receives value without directly giving equal value in return, include property taxes, grants, entitlements and donations.

Revenue from grants, entitlements and donations is recognized in the fiscal year in which all eligibility requirements have been satisfied. Eligibility requirements include timing requirements, which specify the year when the resources are required to be used or the fiscal year when use is first permitted, matching requirements, in which the District must provide local resources to be used for a specified purpose, and expenditure requirements, in which the resources are provided to the District on a reimbursement basis. On a modified accrual basis, revenue from the non-exchange transactions must also be available before it can be recognized. Under the modified accrual basis, the following revenue sources are considered to be both measurable and available at fiscal year-end: property taxes available as an advance, interest, grants, and student fees.

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

D. Regulatory Basis of Accounting / Measurement Focus (Continued)

(2) Deferred Revenue

Deferred revenue arises when assets are recognized before revenue recognition criteria have been satisfied. Grants and entitlements received before the eligibility requirements are met are also recorded as deferred revenue. On governmental fund financial statements, there is no deferred revenue.

(3) Expenses/Expenditures

Expenditures are recorded when the liability is incurred, except for claims, compensated absences, and interest on long-term debt, which are not recorded until paid. Proceeds from issuance of long-term debt are recognized when received and payment of long-term debt principal is reported as an expenditure when paid.

E. Investments

The District's investments consist solely of certificates of deposit reported at historical cost, which approximates fair value.

F. Property Taxes

Property taxes are levied in November based on property assessments made between January 1st and May 31st and are an enforceable lien on January 1st for real property and June 1st for personal property. The taxes are payable between January and October 15th of the following year and are considered delinquent after October 15th.

Property taxes shall be accrued or deferred, as applicable, in accordance with guidelines issued by the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE). Arkansas law defines revenue receipts of a school district as actual proceeds of local taxes collected during the current fiscal 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. Arkansas Code Annotated § 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 report purposes, URT revenues are considered property taxes.

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

G. Prepaid Items

Payments made to vendors for services that will benefit periods beyond June 30, 2024, are recorded as prepaid items using the consumption method. A current asset for the prepaid amount is recorded at the time of the purchase and an expenditure/expense is reported in the year in which services are consumed.

H. Capital Assets

Capital asset purchases are recorded as expenditures at the time of purchase and depreciation is not recognized. Information on capital assets and related depreciation is reported in the schedule of capital assets. For this schedule, capital assets are capitalized at historical cost or estimated historical cost.

I. Accounts Payable and Long-term Obligations

In general, payables and accrued liabilities that, once incurred, are paid in a timely manner and in full from current financial resources are reported as obligations of the governmental funds. However, compensated absences, interest, and contractually required pension contributions that will be paid from governmental funds are reported as a liability in the fund financial statements only to the extent that they are due for payment during the current fiscal year.

J. Fund Balance Reserves

The District reserves those portions of fund equity which are legally segregated for a specific future use or which do not represent available expendable resources and therefore are not available for appropriation or expenditure. Unreserved fund balance indicates that portion of fund equity which is available for appropriation in future periods. Reserved fund balances represent that portion of the fund balance, which is not appropriable for expenditure, or is legally segregated for a specific future use.

K. Fund Designations

Fund balance designations may be established to indicate tentative planned expenditures of financial resources. The designation reflects the District's intentions and is subject to change. Designations are reported as part of unreserved fund balance. Designations represent amounts set-aside for budget stabilization which exceeds the statutory required amount.

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

L. Interfund Activity

Exchange transactions between funds are reported as revenues in the seller funds and as expenditures/expenses in the purchaser funds. Flows of cash or goods from one fund to another without a requirement for repayment are reported as interfund transfers. Interfund transfers are reported as other financing sources/uses in governmental funds. Repayments from funds responsible for particular expenditures/expenses to the funds that initially paid for them are not presented on the financial statements.

M. Estimates

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

N. Budget and Budgetary Accounting

The District is required by Arkansas State Law to prepare an annual budget approved by the School Board and submitted to the Arkansas Department of Education by September 15 of the current fiscal year. The annual budget is prepared on the regulatory basis of accounting. The District does not prepare and submit amended budgets during the fiscal year to the Department of Education.

NOTE 2: CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Arkansas statutes allow each local district the right to determine the depositories in which to deposit District funds and the amounts and type of investments in which to invest District funds, provided, however, that investments are limited specifically to bonds or notes of the United States of America, general obligation bonds of the State of Arkansas, or bank certificates of deposit. At June 30, 2024, the District's cash consisted of demand deposits at two local depository banks.

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, a government's deposits may not be returned to it. The District's deposit policy for custodial credit risk requires compliance with the provisions of state law. Arkansas law requires collateralization of all deposits with federal depository insurance (FDIC); a surety bond; U.S. Treasury and U.S. agencies and instrumentalities bonds or other obligations; and the bonds of the State of Arkansas or by bonds of a political subdivision thereof which has never defaulted on any of its obligations, in an amount at least equal to the amount of such deposit or by a bond executed by a surety company authorized to do business in the State of Arkansas.

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 2: CASH AND INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

The carrying amount of total deposits, amount of the total bank balances, and the custodial credit risk at June 30, 2024, are summarized as follows:

	<u>Carrying Value</u>	<u>Bank Balance</u>
Insured (FDIC) and Collateralized	\$ 30,739,881	\$ 28,425,070
Uninsured, Uncollateralized	-	-
Escrow Funds	<u>6,018,586</u>	<u>6,018,586</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 36,758,467</u>	<u>\$ 34,443,656</u>

The carrying value of the above-mentioned cash deposits at June 30, 2024, is included in the accompanying financial statements as follows:

Total Governmental Funds	\$ 30,704,676
Funds with Escrow Agent	6,018,586
Fiduciary Fund Types	<u>35,205</u>
Total	<u>\$ 36,758,467</u>

NOTE 3: ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

The accounts receivable balance of \$231,969 at June 30, 2024, consisted of the following:

	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Total</u>
Federal Sources	<u>\$ 231,969</u>	<u>\$ 231,969</u>

NOTE 4: BONDED AND NON-BONDED DEBT

A. Debt Descriptions

The District has Qualified School Construction Bonds (QSCB) in the amount of \$8,445,000, which are due on November 1, 2029. The interest of 5.15% is partially subsidized by the federal government on a semi-annual basis. The balance of this QSCB sinking fund at June 30, 2021 is \$4,685,164.

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 4: BONDED AND NON-BONDED DEBT (CONTINUED)

A. Debt Descriptions

The District issues general obligation bonds to provide funds for the acquisition, construction, and operation of major capital facilities. General obligation bonds are direct obligations and are secured by the full faith credit and resources of the District and all its revenues from whatever source derived (which are legally pledgeable). Each issue contains an option allowing bonds to be called in inverse numerical order for redemption prior to maturity.

The District issued Construction Bonds in the amount of \$17,415,000 on December 1, 2022. This bond issue bears interest at rates of 5.00% to 4.75% with a maturity of June 30, 2048.

B. Long-term Debt Details at June 30, 2024

<u>Date of Issue</u>	<u>Date of Final Maturity</u>	<u>Interest Rate Percent</u>	<u>Amount of Original Issue</u>	<u>Total Debt Retired at June 30, 2024</u>	<u>Debt Outstanding June 30, 2024</u>
<u>Bonded</u>					
11/23/2010	06/30/2030	5.15%	\$ 8,445,000	\$ -	\$ 8,445,000
06/29/2017	02/01/2048	3.0-3.50%	33,920,000	4,390,000	29,530,000
07/20/2018	02/01/2040	2.0-3.375%	28,145,000	6,075,000	22,070,000
09/24/2020	06/30/2040	0.50-1.60%	4,685,000	645,000	4,040,000
01/05/2022	02/01/2048	2.00-5.00%	10,870,000	535,000	10,335,000
12/01/2022	06/30/2048	5.00-4.75%	<u>17,415,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,415,000</u>
Total Bonded Debt			<u>103,480,000</u>	<u>11,645,000</u>	<u>91,835,000</u>
<u>Non-Bonded</u>					
06/15/2022	07/15/2025	0.00-0.00%	<u>1,725,500</u>	<u>862,750</u>	<u>862,750</u>
Total Non-Bonded Debt			<u>1,725,500</u>	<u>862,750</u>	<u>862,750</u>
Total Long-Term Debt			<u>\$ 105,205,500</u>	<u>\$ 12,507,750</u>	<u>\$ 92,697,750</u>

C. Long-term Debt Changes for the Year Ended June 30, 2024

	<u>Balance June 30, 2023</u>	<u>Issued</u>	<u>Retired</u>	<u>Balance June 30, 2024</u>	<u>Due Within One Year</u>
Bonds Payable	\$ 94,185,000	\$ -	\$ 2,350,000	\$ 91,835,000	\$ 2,568,210
Non Bonded Debt	<u>1,294,125</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>431,375</u>	<u>862,750</u>	<u>483,165</u>
Total Long-term Debt	<u>\$ 95,479,125</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 2,781,375</u>	<u>\$ 92,697,750</u>	<u>\$ 3,051,375</u>

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8
 NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 4: BONDED AND NON-BONDED DEBT (CONTINUED)

D. Principal and Interest Payments for Years Subsequent to June 30, 2024

Year Ended <u>June 30,</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Interest Subsidy</u>	<u>Total</u>
2025	\$ 3,051,375	\$ 3,141,110	\$ (403,169)	\$ 5,789,316
2026	3,136,375	3,057,265	(403,169)	5,790,471
2027	2,790,000	2,970,345	(403,169)	5,357,176
2028	2,880,000	2,880,135	(403,168)	5,356,967
2029	2,970,000	2,789,610	(403,168)	5,356,442
2030-2034	26,620,000	10,497,121	(403,168)	36,713,953
2035-2039	21,670,000	7,218,306	-	28,888,306
2040-2044	16,290,000	3,812,156	-	20,102,156
2045-2048	13,290,000	1,012,944	-	14,302,944
	<u>\$ 92,697,750</u>	<u>\$ 37,378,992</u>	<u>\$ (2,419,011)</u>	<u>\$ 127,657,731</u>

NOTE 5: RETIREMENT PLANS

A. Arkansas Teacher Retirement System

- (1) Plan Description - The District contributes to the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System (ATRS), a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan that covers all Arkansas public school employees, except certain nonteachers hired prior to July 1, 1989. ATRS provides retirement and disability benefits, annual cost-of-living adjustments, and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. Benefit and contribution 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. The report can be obtained by writing to ATRS, 1400 West Third Street, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 or by calling 1-800-666-2877.
- (2) Funding Policy - ATRS has contributory and non-contributory plans. Contributory members are required by code to contribute 7% of their salaries. Each participating employer is required by code to contribute at a rate established by the Arkansas General Assembly. The current employer rate is 15% of covered salaries.

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 5: RETIREMENT PLANS (CONTINUED)

A. Arkansas Teacher Retirement System (Continued)

(2) Funding Policy (Continued)

The employer contribution was paid by the Arkansas Department of Education from the public school fund, except for those employees paid from federal funding. Employer contributions for those employees were paid by the District. Beginning July 1, 1993, the employer contribution for nonfederally funded members became the lesser of the result of multiplying the applicable percent of active member payroll for the fiscal year by the total covered reported salaries of the previous fiscal year, including any prior year reported salaries, or the amount appropriated by the Arkansas General Assembly. The amount appropriated is limited to the amount funded. The Department of Education determines the amount funded.

The District's contributions to ATRS for the years ended June 30, 2024, 2023, and 2022 were approximately \$4,522,896, \$4,363,328, and \$3,944,654 respectively, equal to the required contributions for each year.

The District contributes to ATRS for the salaries of food service and substitutes at a rate of 0.004. For the year ended June 30, 2024 the District paid \$49,110.

(3) Net Pension Liability

The Arkansas Department of Education has stipulated that under the regulatory basis of accounting, the requirements of Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 68 are 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, 2023 (actuarial valuation date and measurement date) was \$46,445,798.

B. Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System

- (1) Plan Description - The District contributes to the Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System (APERS), a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan that covers certain non-teaching Arkansas public school employees hired before July 1, 1989.

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 5: RETIREMENT PLANS (CONTINUED)

B. Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System (Continued)

(1) Plan Description (Continued)

APERS provides retirement and disability benefits, annual cost-of-living adjustments, and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries.

Benefit and contribution provisions are established by State law and can be amended only by the Arkansas General Assembly. The Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information. That report may be obtained by writing to APERS, 1400 West Third Street, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 or by calling 1-800-682-7377.

(2) Funding Policy - APERS has contributory and non-contributory plans. Contributory members are required by code to contribute 6% of their salaries. Each participating employer is required by code to contribute at a rate established by the Arkansas General Assembly.

The current statutory employer rate is 4% of annual covered payroll. The District's contributions to APERS for the years ended June 30, 2024, 2023, and 2022 were \$766, \$1,453, and \$1,248, respectively, equal to the required contributions for each year.

(3) Net Pension Liability

The Arkansas Department of Education has stipulated that under the regulatory basis of accounting, the requirements of Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 68 are 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, 2023 (actuarial valuation date and measurement date) was \$12,473.

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8
 NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 6: INTERFUND TRANSFERS

Interfund transfers consist primarily of transfers from the General Fund to the Debt Service Fund for the payment of scheduled debt service expenditures. Interfund transfers for the year ended June 30, 2024, are summarized as follows:

<u>Transfer From</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>
General Fund	Governmental Funds	
	\$ 7,189,855	\$ 7,189,855
Total	<u>\$ 7,189,855</u>	<u>\$ 7,189,855</u>

NOTE 7: COMMITMENTS

The District was contractually obligated for the following at June 30, 2024.

A. Construction Contracts

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Paid</u>	<u>Committed Projects</u>
	<u>Construction</u>	<u>To Date</u>	<u>to Complete</u>
	<u>Contracts</u>		
Middle School	\$ 37,144,024	\$ 20,278,083	\$ 16,865,941
Totals	<u>\$ 37,144,024</u>	<u>\$ 20,278,083</u>	<u>\$ 16,865,941</u>

B. Operating Leases

The District is under an agreement for the use of copiers and printers. The basis on which contingent rental payments are determined, if applicable, is the total number of copies used district-wide at a rate of \$0.0157 for black and white per copy and \$0.085 per color copy, with a monthly minimum of 935,000 copies for 60 months. Total payments for the use of this equipment were \$363,929 for the year ended June 30, 2024.

	<u>Equipment</u>
2025	\$ 117,610
2026	-
2027	-
2028	-
2029	-
	<u>\$ 117,610</u>

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 7: COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)

C. Contractual Agreements

- (1) The District paid a monthly \$1,000 service fee to Benton Utilities for maintaining the service to each of the nine DMARC points. This agreement renewed on April 30, 2021 for three years. The total service fees for the year ended June 30, 2024, were \$12,000.
- (2) The District contracted with a food service management company for the nutrition program for the year ended June 30, 2024. The total payments for these services were \$2,041,720.

The District on May 13, 2024 renewed the contract with the food service management company for the 2024/2025 school year on a cost reimbursable basis.

NOTE 8: ON-BEHALF PAYMENTS

The allocation of the health insurance premiums paid by the Arkansas Department of Education to the Employee Benefits Division, on-behalf of the District's employees, totaled \$1,337,823 for the year ended June 30, 2024.

NOTE 9: RISK MANAGEMENT

The District is exposed to various risks of loss from torts; theft of, damage to and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; and natural disasters for which the District carries commercial insurance. Settled claims have not exceeded this commercial coverage in any of the three preceding years.

The District has joined with other school districts to form the Arkansas School Board Association Self-Insurance Program, a public entity risk pool currently operating as a common risk management and insurance program for its members. The District pays an annual premium to the Pool for its property insurance. The Pool's governing agreement specifies that the Pool will be self-sustaining through member premiums and will reinsure through commercial carriers for claims in excess of specified stop loss amounts.

NOTE 10: SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The Benton School District No. 8 did not have any recognized or nonrecognized subsequent events occur after June 30, 2024, the date of the balance sheet. Subsequent events have been evaluated through March 10, 2025, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8
 SCHEDULE OF CAPITAL ASSETS
 JUNE 30, 2024

	Balance <u>June 30, 2024</u>
Nondepreciable Capital Assets:	
Land	\$ 5,298,136
Construction in Progress	<u>13,043,331</u>
Total Nondepreciable	<u>18,341,467</u>
 Depreciable Capital Assets	
Buildings	124,542,421
Site Improvements	24,078,673
Equipment	<u>18,053,922</u>
Total Depreciable Capital Assets	<u>166,675,016</u>
 Less Accumulated Depreciation	 <u>61,601,029</u>
 Total Depreciable Capital Assets, Net	 <u>105,073,987</u>
 Capital Assets, Net	 <u>\$ 123,415,454</u>

See independent auditors' report on supplementary schedules.

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8
 NOTES TO SCHEDULE OF CAPITAL ASSETS (SCHEDULE 1)
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 1: CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital assets generally result from expenditures in the governmental funds. These assets are not reported in the fund financial statement balance sheet – regulatory basis.

Capital assets are recorded at cost (or estimated historical cost) and updated for additions and retirements during the year. Donated capital assets are recorded at their estimated fair value as of the date received. The District maintains a threshold level of \$1,000 for capitalizing equipment. Library holdings are not capitalized. Improvements are capitalized; the cost of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add value to the assets or materially extend an asset’s life are not capitalized. Interest incurred during construction is not capitalized.

The District does not possess any material amounts of infrastructure capital assets, such as sidewalks and parking lots. Such items are considered to be part of the cost of buildings or other improvable property.

Capital assets not being depreciated include land and construction in progress. Improvements are depreciated over the remaining useful lives of the related capital assets. Since surplus assets are sold for immaterial amounts when declared as no longer needed for public school purposes, no salvage value is taken into consideration for depreciation purposes. Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over the estimated useful life of the assets. The District has established capitalization thresholds and estimated useful lives as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Capitalization Threshold</u>	<u>Estimated Useful Lives in Years</u>
Land	All	-
Construction in Progress	All	-
Buildings	All	50
Vehicles	\$1,000	8
Equipment	\$1,000	5-20

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8
SCHEDULE OF BILLABLE UNITS
NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (SCHEDULE 2)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

<u>Description</u>	<u>Number of Units</u>		<u>Rate</u>	<u>Total Income</u>
Meals Rendered in Accordance with U.S. Department of Agriculture Child Nutrition Program:				
Breakfast				
Free Severe	9,902	\$	2.28	\$ 22,577
Free Severe	94,043		2.73	256,737
Reduced Severe	3,627		1.98	7,181
Reduced Severe	27,123		2.43	65,909
Paid	70,239		0.38	26,691
Total Breakfast	204,934			379,095
Lunch				
Free	204,246		4.25	868,046
Reduced	67,746		3.85	260,822
Paid	225,325		0.40	90,130
Total Lunch	497,317			1,218,998
Total	702,251			1,598,093
Performance Based Reimbursement (1)				37,785
Total Revenue				\$ 1,635,878

(1) Performance Based Reimbursement is based on total lunch units less July Free units at \$0.08.

See independent auditors' report on supplementary schedules.

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS (SCHEDULE 3)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

<u>Federal Grantor/Pass-Through Grantor/Program Title</u>	<u>Federal Assistance Listing Number</u>	<u>Total Disbursements/ Expenditures</u>
<u>U.S. Department of Education:</u>		
Passed-Through Arkansas Department of Education:		
Title I	84.010	\$ 812,757
Improving Teacher Quality	84.367	252,956
Arkansas Comprehensive Literacy Grant	84.371	328,536
Title IV, Student Support	84.424A	<u>46,456</u>
		<u>1,440,705</u>
Special Education Cluster:		
Special Education, IDEA, Part B	84.027	1,293,366
American Rescue Plan Special Ed School Age	84.027X	49,868
Title VI-B Early Childhood	84.173	<u>55,605</u>
Total Special Education Cluster		<u>1,398,839</u>
ESSER Cluster:		
ESSER	84.425D	63,556
American Rescue Plan Homeless Grant	84.425W	8,210
American Rescue Plan ESSER III Emergency Relief	84.425U	<u>1,917,629</u>
Total ESSER Cluster		<u>1,989,395</u>
Total U.S Department of Education		<u>4,828,939</u>
<u>U.S. Department of Agriculture</u>		
Child Nutrition Cluster:		
Passed-Through the Arkansas Department of Education:		
School Breakfast Program	10.553	379,095
National School Lunch Program	10.555	<u>1,256,783</u>
Total U.S. Department of Agriculture		1,635,878
Passed-Through the State Department of Human Services:		
Food Distribution	10.555	<u>222,412</u>
Total Child Nutrition Cluster		<u>1,858,290</u>
<u>U.S. Department of Defense:</u>		
ROTC	12.AR200026	<u>127,891</u>
TOTAL		<u>\$ 6,815,120</u>

See independent auditors' report on supplementary schedules.

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8
NOTES TO SCHEDULES OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 1: SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (the Schedule) is a summary of the activity of the District's federal awards programs and is presented in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (OMB Uniform Guidance). The accompanying Schedule of State Awards is a summary of activity of the District's state grants awarded by the Arkansas Department of Human Services. These schedules have been prepared on the modified accrual basis of accounting. Therefore, some amounts presented in these schedules may differ from amounts presented in or used in the presentation of the basic financial statements.

The District did not elect to use the 10% de minimis indirect cost rate as permitted by OMB Uniform Guidance.

NOTE 2: NUTRITION CLUSTER

Nonmonetary assistance, such as food received from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is reported in the Schedule at the fair value of the commodities received and consumed. Cash receipts from the U.S. Department of Agriculture are commingled with State grants. It is assumed federal monies are expended first. For the year ended June 30, 2024, the District received \$222,412 in food commodities.

NOTE 3: MEDICAID

During the year ended June 30, 2024, the District received Medicaid funding of \$269,019 from the State Department of Human Services as well as \$489,222 of ARMAC Medicaid Administrative Claiming funds. Such payments are not considered federal awards expended; therefore, they are not included in the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards.

COBB AND SUSKIE, LTD.

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Michael L. Cobb

Anne Suskie Pinyan

Independent Auditors' 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 Education
Benton School District No. 8
Benton, Arkansas

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 Standard* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of each major governmental fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Benton School District No. 8, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Benton School District No. 8's regulatory basis financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated March 10, 2025. We issued an adverse opinion because the District prepared the financial statements on the basis of the financial reporting provisions of Arkansas Code Section 10-4-413(c), 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, 2024 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.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the regulatory basis financial statements, we considered Benton School District No. 8's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Benton School District No. 8's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Benton School District No. 8'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 entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

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

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Benton School District No. 8's regulatory basis financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the 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.

Cobb and Suskie, ftd.

Certified Public Accountants
March 10, 2025

COBB AND SUSKIE, LTD.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

650 S. Shackelford Road • Suite 400 • P. O. Box 21675 • Little Rock, Arkansas 72221-1675
(501) 225-2133 • Fax (501) 223-2839

Michael L. Cobb

Anne Suskie Pinyan

Independent Auditors' Report on Compliance for Each Major Program And on Internal Control over compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance

The Board of Education
Benton School District No. 8
Benton, Arkansas

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We have audited Benton School District No. 8's (the "District") compliance with the types of compliance requirements described in the *OMB Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of Benton School District No. 8's major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2024. Benton School District No. 8'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 District complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2024.

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; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and the audit requirements of title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal regulations* part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Our responsibilities under those standards and the Uniform Guidance are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section of our report.

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

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on the District's compliance based on our audit. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute 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 judgement made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about the District's compliance with the requirements of each major federal program as a whole.

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

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

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

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 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.

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.

Cobb and Suskie, P.C.

Certified Public Accountants
March 10, 2025

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8
 SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

SECTION I: SUMMARY OF AUDITORS' RESULTS

1. Type of Report Issued, Financial Statements
 The independent auditors' report expresses an adverse opinion on the GAAP basis of reporting and an unmodified opinion on the regulatory basis of accounting on the basic financial statements of Benton School District No. 8.
2. The independent auditors' report on internal control over financial reporting described:

Significant deficiency(ies) identified?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Yes	No
Material weakness(es) identified?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Yes	No
3. Noncompliance considered material to the financial statements was disclosed by the audit?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Yes	No
4. The independent auditors' report on internal control over compliance with requirements applicable to major federal awards programs described:

Significant deficiency(ies) identified?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Yes	No
Material weakness(es) identified?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Yes	No
5. The opinion expressed in the independent auditors' report on compliance with requirements applicable to major federal awards was:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unmodified	Modified	Adverse	Disclaimed
6. The audit disclosed findings required to be reported by the Uniform Guidance?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Yes	No
7. Major Programs
 Special Education Cluster, FAL Numbers 84.027, 84.427X, and 84.173
 Child Nutrition Cluster, FAL Numbers 10.553/10.555
8. Threshold between Type A and Type B Programs
 The threshold for distinguishing Type A and B programs was \$750,000.
9. Type of Auditee
 Benton School District No. 8 did not qualify as a low-risk auditee as that term is defined by the Uniform Guidance.

Section II: FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS

None Noted

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

Section III: FEDERAL AWARD FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

None Noted

Section IV: PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

There were no prior year findings and questioned costs.

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Michael L. Cobb

Anne Suskie Pinyan

Independent Auditors' Report on Compliance With Arkansas State Requirements

The Board of Education
Benton School District No. 8
Benton, Arkansas

We have examined management's assertions that Benton School District No. 8 substantially complied with the requirements of Arkansas Code Annotated 6-1-101 and applicable laws and regulations including those listed in the accompanying schedule of statutes required to be addressed by the Arkansas Department of Education during the year ended June 30, 2024. Management is responsible for the District's compliance with those requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the District'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, included examining, on a test basis, evidence about the District's compliance with those requirements and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our examination provides a reasonable basis for our opinion. Our examination does not provide a legal determination on the District's compliance with specified requirements.

In our opinion, Benton School District No. 8 complied, in all material respects, with the aforementioned requirements for the year ended June 30, 2024.

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

Cobb and Suskie, Ltd.

Certified Public Accountants
March 10, 2025

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.8
SCHEDULE OF STATUTES REQUIRED BY ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
TO BE ADRESSED IN INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

DESCRIPTIONS

STATUTES

Bidding & Purchasing Commodities	6-21-301 – 6-21-305; 6-13-628
Ethical Guidelines and Prohibitions	6-24-101 et seq.
Collateralization & Investment of Funds	6-20-222; 19-1-504
Deposit of Funds	19-8-104; 19-8-106
District Finances	
• Bonded & Non-bonded Debt	6-20-402
• District School Bonds	6-20-1201 – 6-20-1208; 6-20-1210
• Petty Cash	6-20-409
• Investment of Funds	19-1-504
Management of Schools	
• Board of Directors	6-13-608; 6-13-611 – 6-13-613; 6-13-617 – 6-13-620; 6-13-622
• District Treasurer	6-13-701
• Warrants/checks	6-17-918 – 6-17-919; 6-20-403
Management Letter for Audit	14-75-101 – 14-75-104
Nonrecurring Salary Payments	6-20-412
Revolving Loan Fund	6-19-114; 6-20-801 et seq.
Salary Laws - Classified	6-17-2201 et seq.; 6-17-2301 et seq.
School Elections	6-13-630; 6-13-634; 6-14-106; 6-14-109; 6-14-118
Teachers and Employees	
• Personnel Policies	6-17-201 et seq., 6-17-2301 et seq.
• Employment and Assignment	6-17-301 et seq.
• Teacher's License Requirement	6-17-401 et seq.
• Contracts	6-17-801 et seq.
• Sick Leave Policies	6-17-1201 et seq.; 6-17-1301 et seq.
• Minimum Wage Act	11-4-213, 11-4-218, 11-4-403, 11-4-405
Teacher Salaries and Foundation Funding Aid	6-17-803; 6-17-907 – 6-17-908; 6-17-911 – 6-17-913; 6-17-918 – 6-17-919; 6-17-2401 et seq.
Trust Funds (Education Excellence)	6-5-307
Use of Contractors, Improvement Contracts	22-9-201 – 22-9-205
Use of DM&O Millage	26-80-110
On Behalf Payments	The amount of funds paid by the Arkansas Department of Education to the Employee Benefits Division on-behalf of District employees
Regulatory Basis of Accounting	10-4-413(c)
Real Estate and Personal Property Tax Appeals	26-35-802
Arkansas Procurement Law	6-21-301 et seq.
Fiscal Accountability	6-20-1901 et. Seq.
Enhanced Student Achievement Funding ESA	6-20-2305 (B)(4)(F)(I)
Limitation of Fund Balances	6-20-2210 (Waived for 2019-2020 only)
CARES Act (COVID-19) Education Funding	Commissioner's Memo LS-20-089