

# Audited Financial Statements

Raleigh, North Carolina

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

**UNBIASED. IMPACTFUL. IRREFUTABLE.**



A Department of the  
State of North Carolina

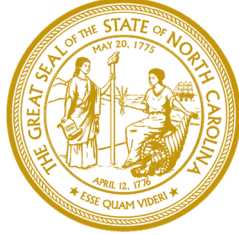


# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

	PAGE
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT .....	1
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS.....	4
BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	
EXHIBITS	
A-1 BALANCE SHEET – GOVERNMENTAL FUND .....	9
A-2 STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE – GOVERNMENTAL FUND.....	10
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.....	11
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION	
B-1 SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE – BUDGET AND ACTUAL – (BUDGETARY BASIS – NON-GAAP) GENERAL FUND .....	35
NOTES TO REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION - BUDGETARY INFORMATION .....	36
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH <i>GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS</i> .....	38
ORDERING INFORMATION.....	40

Chapter 147, Article 5A of the North Carolina General Statutes gives the Auditor broad powers to examine all books, records, files, papers, documents, and financial affairs of every state agency and any organization that receives public funding. The Auditor also has the power to summon people to produce records and to answer questions under oath.



# **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**



## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the North Carolina  
Office of the State Auditor  
Raleigh, North Carolina

### **Report on the Financial Statements**

#### *Opinion*

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the North Carolina Office of the State Auditor (Office) as of and for the year then ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Office's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, based on our audit, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the Office as of June 30, 2024, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

#### *Basis for Opinion*

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

#### *Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements*

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

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Office's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date that the financial statements are issued.

### ***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 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 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 GAGAS, the auditor's responsibilities are to:

- 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 Office'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 Office's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

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

### ***Required Supplementary Information***

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the Management's Discussion and Analysis and the required supplementary information as listed in the table of content be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considered it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

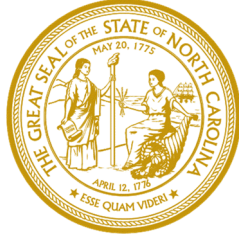
## **Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards**

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated February 26, 2025 on our consideration of the Office'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 the report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal controls over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Governmental Auditing Standards* in considering the Office's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharpe Patel PLLC". The script is cursive and fluid, with the letters connected together.

Sharpe Patel PLLC  
February 26, 2025



# **MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**





The Management's Discussion and Analysis section of the North Carolina Office of the State Auditor's (Office) financial report is provided as an overview of the financial performance of the governmental fund for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024 with comparative information for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. This discussion and analysis should be read in conjunction with the financial statements and related notes to the financial statements which follow this section.

### **Overview of the Financial Statements**

The Office is a part of the State of North Carolina (State) and is not a separate legal or reporting entity. The Office's accounts and transactions are included in the State of North Carolina's *Annual Comprehensive Financial Report* as a part of the State's General Fund.

The accompanying financial statements are presented in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America as prescribed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). GASB Statement No. 34, *Basic Financial Statements – and Management's Discussion and Analysis – for State and Local Governments* requires the presentation of both government-wide and fund level financial statements. The financial statements presented are governmental fund financial statements of the Office. Because the Office is not a separate entity, government-wide financial statements are not prepared.

The Office's financial statements are comprised of the governmental fund and include the General Fund. The Governmental Funds' basic financial statements consist of the Balance Sheet and Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance.

The Balance Sheet presents the governmental funds' assets, deferred outflows, liabilities, and deferred inflows that are considered relevant to an assessment of near-term liquidity. The difference between assets (plus deferred outflows) and liabilities (plus deferred inflows) is reported as fund balance.

The Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance reports the resource flows (revenues and expenditures) of the governmental funds.

Notes to the financial statements are designed to give the reader additional information concerning the Office and further support the statements noted above.

Required Supplementary Information (RSI) follows the basic financial statements and notes to the financial statements. The RSI is mandated by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) and includes the General Fund budgetary comparison schedules reconciling the statutory to the generally accepted accounting principles fund balances at fiscal year-end.

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the State considers revenues to be available if they are collected or collectible within 31 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred.

Cash and cash equivalents presented on the face of the financial statements represent Federal funds received in the amount of \$1,082,916 for Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) Continuing Operations (COOP) funds. Cash and Cash Equivalents, which are not Federally sourced, are

managed with the carryforward process. The agency carryforward is recorded in a reserve account at the North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management. See Note 1 for more information on cash and cash equivalents.

Since capital asset and long-term liability accounts relating to governmental funds are reported only in the governmental activities' column of the government-wide financial statements, these amounts are not included in the financial statements of the Office. However, amounts are reported in the notes to the financial statements.

**Governmental Funds**

**Condensed Balance Sheets**

The following Condensed Balance Sheets show the Governmental Funds' financial position on June 30, 2024 and 2023.

<b>Condensed Balance Sheet</b>			
<b>Governmental Funds</b>			
<b>For Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2024 &amp; June 30, 2023</b>			
	<b>Total Governmental Funds 2024</b>	<b>Total Governmental Funds 2023</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>	\$ 3,394,599	\$ 2,705,398	\$ 689,201
<b>DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Assets and Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>\$ 3,394,599</u>	<u>\$ 2,705,398</u>	<u>\$ 689,201</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	\$ 209,836	\$ 115,265	\$ 94,571
<b>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>	\$ 1,285,871	\$ 1,388,232	\$ (102,361)
<b>FUND BALANCES</b>			
Nonspendable:	\$ 19,636	\$ 14,370	\$ 5,266
Unassigned	\$ 1,879,256	\$ 1,187,531	\$ 691,725
Total Fund Balances	<u>\$ 1,898,892</u>	<u>\$ 1,201,901</u>	<u>\$ 696,991</u>
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Fund Balances	<u>\$ 3,394,599</u>	<u>\$ 2,705,398</u>	<u>\$ 689,201</u>

**Condensed Statements of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance**

The following condensed Statements of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance show the Governmental Funds' resource flows for the periods ended June 30, 2024 and 2023.

**Condensed Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances  
Governmental Funds  
For the Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2024 & June 30, 2023**

	Total Governmental Funds 2024	Total Governmental Funds 2023	Change
<b>OPERATING REVENUES</b>			
Services - Audit Fees to Component Units	3,936,752	3,243,015	693,737
Services - Audit Fees to Agencies	3,360,524	3,270,436	90,088
Other Revenue	928	1,583	(655)
<b>Total Operating Revenues</b>	<b>7,298,204</b>	<b>6,515,034</b>	<b>783,170</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>			
Salaries and Benefits	18,263,813	18,101,275	162,538
Contracted Audits and Contracted Personal Services	1,450,524	1,290,618	159,906
Supplies and Materials	43,919	31,128	12,792
Travel	122,561	194,358	(71,797)
Communication	103,728	86,591	17,137
Utilities	6,235	6,406	(171)
Data Processing Services	285,920	156,313	129,607
Other Services	66,494	238,874	(172,380)
Right-to-Use Lease Amortization	98,629	75,727	22,902
Right-to-Use Lease Interest	6,118	6,042	75
Rent/Lease of Property and Equipment	1,910	3,437	(1,527)
Service and Maintenance	341,596	148,894	192,702
Capital Outlay	909,297	1,372,007	(462,710)
Insurance and Bonding	1,429	4,576	(3,147)
Other Expenditures	176,183	58,977	117,206
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>21,878,356</b>	<b>21,775,223</b>	<b>103,133</b>
<b>Excess of Revenues (Under) Expenditures</b>	<b>(14,580,152)</b>	<b>(15,260,189)</b>	<b>680,037</b>
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES</b>			
Transfers In:	697,481	1,908,584	(1,211,103)
Transfers Out:	(551,288)	(567,120)	15,832
State Appropriations	15,130,950	13,404,679	1,726,271
<b>Total Other Financing Sources</b>	<b>15,277,143</b>	<b>14,746,142</b>	<b>531,001</b>
<b>Net Change in Fund Balance</b>	<b>696,991</b>	<b>(514,047)</b>	<b>1,211,038</b>
Fund Balance - At July 1	1,201,901	1,715,948	(514,047)
Fund Balance - At June 30	<b>\$ 1,898,892</b>	<b>\$ 1,201,901</b>	<b>\$ 696,991</b>

## Overall Financial Position and Results of Operations

The Office continues to strategically align spending with goals to increase efficiency and improve responsiveness to the changing environment. Total revenues decreased due primarily to the one-time receipt of CRF COOP funds in the prior year. The Office expects to continue to efficiently manage resources to optimize output.

The Office recognized a net increase in Revenue of \$783,170 from the prior year. Total Assets and Deferred Outflows of Resources increased by \$689,201 compared to the prior year. The change is due primarily to an increase of \$553,737 in Due from Agencies and increase of \$129,999 in Due from Component Units which consists of audit fees for services provided to agencies and component units of the State which remained uncollected as of June 30, 2024. This fluctuation in outstanding audit fees for services is typical.

Liabilities and Deferred Inflows of Resources decreased \$7,790 from prior year primarily due to the corresponding decrease of \$102,361 in Unavailable Revenue which is attributable to the increase in uncollected audit fees represented in Due from Agencies and in Due from Component Units. This decrease was partially offset by an increase of \$94,571 in Accounts Payable. This fluctuation is typical.

The Office recognized an overall increase in expenditures of \$103,132 due mainly to increases in Salaries and Benefits, Contracted Services, Data Processing Services Service and Maintenance Costs, which were partially offset by decreases in Capital Outlay, Travel and Other expenses.

The increase of \$162,538 in Salaries and Benefits expenditures is primarily attributable to a 4% legislative salary increase for all state-funded employees effective July 1, 2023. In addition, the state's employer contribution rates for retirement and related benefits increased from the prior fiscal year.

Service and Maintenance costs increased during this 2024 fiscal period by \$192,702 and Capital outlay decreased by \$462,710. During 2023, the Office moved its Raleigh operations to a new location requiring the purchase of furnishings and technology. These were one-time costs that did not recur at these levels in 2024.

Total Other Financing Sources increased by \$531,001 mainly as a result of changes in the carryforwards from the state fiscal year 2023 to 2024. These carryforwards represent the cash to cover costs associated with the Office's previous fiscal year carryforward and the costs expected to occur within, and attributable to, the fiscal year for which the Office entered into agreements but had not yet incurred the expenditures. The amount will be used to cover expenditures for outstanding purchase orders as of June 30, including additional contracted audits and personal services and additional service and maintenance agreements.

Net Change in Fund Balance as of June 30, 2023, decreased by \$514,047. This is primarily due to the increases and decreases as described above.

## Budget Variations

Data for the Governmental Fund budget variances is presented in the Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget and Actual (Budgetary Basis – Non-GAAP) of this report. The General Fund is presented in Schedule B-1 of this report.

*Variances – Original and Final Budget:*

The General Fund final budget increased from the original by \$15,832 due to the carryforward process and the change in funds carried forward to the 2024 fiscal year in relationship to the funds carried into fiscal year 2024 from fiscal year 2023.

Budgeted amounts from Salaries and Benefits not expended attributable to vacant positions were shifted throughout the year to cover additional technology costs, capital outlay, service and maintenance costs incurred.

*Variances – Final Budget and Actual Results:*

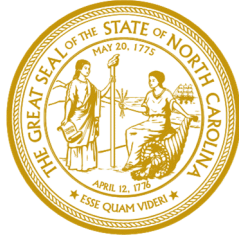
In comparing actual results of operations to the budgeted expectation for the fiscal year, the Office's revenue from services to agencies and component units of the state increased, collecting \$674,505 less in total cash-basis revenues than the expected final budget amount.

Actual total expenditures for the fiscal year were \$4,182,100 less than the final budgeted expectation. This variance between the expectation and actual is due mainly to a decrease in salaries and benefits related to an unprecedented increase in staff vacancies. Additionally, the decrease was due in part to a decrease in Contracted Personal Services.

The total variance amount between the final budgeted amount and actual amount for other financing sources (uses), equaled \$3,508,118.

**Economic Outlook**

Revenue from receipts and appropriations allocated to the Office are expected to remain consistent with prior years. The Office continues to strategically manage resources provided to meet the duties placed upon it by restructuring working environments, shifting funds to meet changes in technological needs, and continuing to recruit qualified, competent personnel.



# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



**North Carolina Office of the State Auditor  
Balance Sheet**

**Governmental Funds**

**June 30, 2024 (With Comparative Totals as of June 30, 2023)**

**Exhibit A-1**

	Total Governmental Funds 2024	Total Governmental Funds 2023	\$ Change	% Change
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,082,916	\$ 1,082,916	\$ -	100.00%
Due from Agencies	1,393,529	839,792	553,737	165.94%
Due from Component Units	897,519	768,320	129,199	116.82%
Misc A/R	1,000	-		
Inventories	19,636	14,370	5,266	136.65%
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>3,394,599</b>	<b>2,705,398</b>	<b>689,201</b>	<b>125.48%</b>
<b>DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>				
<b>Total Assets and Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	<b>\$ 3,394,599</b>	<b>\$ 2,705,398</b>	<b>\$ 689,201</b>	<b>125.48%</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities:				
Accounts Payable	\$ 209,836	\$ 115,264	\$ 94,571	182.05%
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>209,836</b>	<b>115,264</b>	<b>94,571</b>	<b>182.05%</b>
<b>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>				
Unavailable Revenue	1,285,871	1,388,232	(102,361)	92.63%
<b>Total Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>	<b>1,285,871</b>	<b>1,388,232</b>	<b>(102,361)</b>	<b>92.63%</b>
<b>FUND BALANCES</b>				
Nonspendable:				
Inventories	19,636	14,370	5,266	136.65%
Unassigned	1,879,256	1,187,532	691,725	158.25%
<b>Total Fund Balances</b>	<b>1,898,892</b>	<b>1,201,901</b>	<b>696,991</b>	<b>157.99%</b>
<b>Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Fund Balances</b>	<b>\$ 3,394,599</b>	<b>\$ 2,705,398</b>	<b>\$ 689,201</b>	<b>125.48%</b>

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

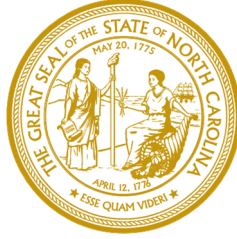


**North Carolina Office of State Auditor**  
**Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Funds Balances**  
**Governmental Funds**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024**  
**(With Comparative Totals for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023)**

**Exhibit A-2**

	Total Governmental Funds 2024	Total Governmental Funds 2023	Change
<b>OPERATING REVENUES</b>			
Services - Audit Fees to Component Units	3,936,752	3,243,015	693,737
Services - Audit Fees to Agencies	3,360,524	3,270,436	90,088
Other Revenue	928	1,583	(655)
<b>Total Operating Revenues</b>	<b>7,298,204</b>	<b>6,515,034</b>	<b>783,170</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>			
Salaries and Benefits	18,263,813	18,101,275	162,538
Contracted Audits and Contracted Personal Services	1,450,524	1,290,618	159,906
Supplies and Materials	43,919	31,128	12,792
Travel	122,561	194,358	(71,797)
Communication	103,728	86,591	17,137
Utilities	6,235	6,406	(171)
Data Processing Services	285,920	156,313	129,607
Other Services	66,494	238,874	(172,380)
Right-to-Use Lease Amortization	98,629	75,727	22,902
Right-to-Use Lease Interest	6,118	6,042	75
Rent/Lease of Property and Equipment	1,910	3,437	(1,527)
Service and Maintenance	341,596	148,894	192,702
Capital Outlay	909,297	1,372,007	(462,710)
Insurance and Bonding	1,429	4,576	(3,147)
Other Expenditures	176,183	58,977	117,206
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>21,878,356</b>	<b>21,775,223</b>	<b>103,133</b>
<b>Excess of Revenues (Under) Expenditures</b>	<b>(14,580,152)</b>	<b>(15,260,189)</b>	<b>680,037</b>
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES</b>			
Transfers In:			
Office of State Budget and Management - Prior Year Carryforward	567,120	1,751,805	(1,184,685)
Proceeds - Leases	-	92,039	(92,039)
Unfunded Solvency Liability Reserve	-	32,731	(32,731)
Retiree Supplement Reserve	130,361	32,008	98,353
Transfers Out:			
Office of State Budget and Management - Current Year Carryforward	(551,288)	(567,120)	15,832
State Appropriations	15,130,950	13,404,679	1,726,271
<b>Total Other Financing Sources</b>	<b>15,277,143</b>	<b>14,746,142</b>	<b>531,001</b>
<b>Net Change in Fund Balance</b>	<b>696,991</b>	<b>(514,047)</b>	<b>1,211,038</b>
Fund Balance - At July 1	1,201,901	1,715,948	(514,047)
Fund Balance - At June 30	<b>\$ 1,898,892</b>	<b>\$ 1,201,901</b>	<b>\$ 696,991</b>

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



# **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

## Note 1 - Significant Accounting Policies

**A. Organization** - The North Carolina Office of the State Auditor (Office) is a part of the State of North Carolina and is not a separate legal or reporting entity. The Office performs an array of work, including financial statement audits, performance audits, information technology audits, and special investigations. The operations of the Office are led by the State Auditor, a member of the Governor's cabinet.

**B. Financial Reporting Entity** - The concept underlying the definition of the financial reporting entity is that elected officials are accountable to their constituents for their actions. As required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP), the financial reporting entity includes both the primary government and all of its component units. An organization other than a primary government serves as a nucleus for a reporting entity when it issues separate financial statements. The Office is a part of the State of North Carolina and an integral part of the State's *Annual Comprehensive Financial Report*.

The accompanying financial statements present all funds belonging to or under the stewardship of the Office. The Office's accounts and transactions are included in the State's *Annual Comprehensive Financial Report* as part of the State's governmental funds.

**C. Basis of Presentation** - The Office's records are maintained on a cash basis throughout the year, but adjustments are made at the end of the fiscal year to convert to GAAP for government entities. The financial statements are prepared according to GAAP as follows:

The accompanying financial statements are presented in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America as prescribed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). GASB Statement No. 34, *Basic Financial Statements - and Management's Discussion and Analysis - for State and Local Governments* and GASB Statement No. 84, *Fiduciary Activities*, require the presentation of government-wide and fund level financial statements. See below for a description of each fund. The financial statements presented are governmental fund financial statements of the Office. Because the Office is not a separate entity, government-wide financial statements are not prepared.

The Office's financial statements consist of the following major governmental fund:

**General Fund** - This fund is the Office's primary operating fund. It accounts for all financial resources of the general government, except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

**D. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting Governmental Funds** – Governmental fund financial statements have been prepared using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. With this measurement focus, only current assets and liabilities are generally included on the balance sheet. The operating statement presents increases (revenues and other financing sources) and decreases (expenditures and other financing uses) in spendable resources. General capital asset acquisitions are reported as expenditures.

Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the Office considers revenues to be available if they are collected or collectible within 31 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures are recorded when a liability is incurred, except for compensated absences, which are recognized as expenditures when payment is due. Pension and other postemployment benefit (OPEB) contributions to cost-sharing plans are recognized as expenditures in the period to which the payment relates, even if the payment is not due until the subsequent period.

Since capital asset and long-term liability accounts relating to the governmental funds are reported only at the statewide level, these amounts are not included in the Office's governmental fund financial statements. However, these amounts are reported in the Office's Notes to the Financial Statements.

**E. Cash and Cash Equivalents** - This classification includes deposits held by the State Treasurer in the Short-Term Investment Fund (STIF). The STIF maintained by the State Treasurer has the general characteristics of a demand deposit account in that participants may deposit and withdraw cash at any time without prior notice or penalty.

**F. Due from Agencies and Component Units** - These classifications are composed of amounts due from other agencies or component units of the State of North Carolina for audit fees. All amounts are considered collectible; accordingly, no allowance for doubtful accounts has been recorded.

Due from Agencies and Due from Component Units for the governmental funds at June 30, 2024 were \$1,393,529 and \$896,635.

**G. Inventories** - Inventories, consisting of expendable supplies and materials, are valued at cost using the last invoice cost method. Inventories are recorded as expenditures using the consumption method. In the fund financial statements, inventories are offset in a non-spendable fund balance account to indicate that they are not available for appropriation and are not expendable available financial resources.

**H. Deferred Inflows of Resources** - Deferred inflows of resources represent an acquisition of net assets that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until then.

**I. Fund Balance** - Fund balance for the governmental funds is reported in the following classifications depicting the relative strength of the constraints that control how specific amounts can be spent.

*Non-spendable Fund Balance* - These amounts cannot be spent because they are either (a) not in a spendable form or (b) legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.

*Unassigned Fund Balance* - This is the residual classification for the General Fund. Other governmental funds cannot report positive unassigned fund balance but can report negative unassigned fund balance if expenditures incurred for specific purposes exceeded the amounts restricted or committed to those purposes.

Expenditures are considered to be made from the most restrictive resource when more than one fund balance classification is available for use.

**J. Services – Audit Fees to Agencies** - these amounts represent revenue that the Office obtains from other agencies within the State of North Carolina. These transfers are not considered other financing sources per GAAP, nor are they considered interfund transfers. These revenues represent nonexchange transactions and are eliminated at the statewide reporting level in the State’s Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

**K. Transfers from/to State Reserve Fund** - These transfers are for funds obligated in the current year, but not spent at year-end, that will be carried forward to the next fiscal year. The Office must obtain authorization from the Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM) to carry forward funds. At year-end, these funds are transferred to the State Reserve Fund and held by the North Carolina Office of the State Controller until approval is granted from OSBM to return the funds to the Office in the next fiscal year.

#### **NOTE 2- DEPOSITS**

At June 30, 2024, the Balance Sheet reported cash and cash equivalents of \$1,082,916, which represents the Office’s equity position in the State Treasurer’s Short-Term Investment Fund (STIF). The STIF (a portfolio within the State Treasurer’s Investment Pool, an external investment pool that is not registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission or subject to any formal oversight other than that of the legislative body) had a weighted average maturity of 0.7 years as of June 30, 2024. Assets and shares of the STIF are valued at fair value.

Deposit and investment risks associated with the State Treasurer’s Investment Pool (which includes the State Treasurer’s STIF) are included in the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer Investment Programs’ separately issued audit report. This separately issued report can be obtained from the Department of State Treasurer, 3200 Atlantic Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27604 or can be accessed from the Department of State Treasurer’s website at <https://www.nctreasurer.com/> in the Audited Financial Statements section.

#### **NOTE 3 - FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS**

To the extent available, the Office’s investments are recorded at fair value as of June 30, 2024. GASB Statement No. 72, *Fair Value Measurement and Application*, defines fair value as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. This statement establishes a hierarchy of valuation inputs based on the extent to which the inputs are observable in the marketplace. Inputs are used in applying the various valuation techniques and take into account the assumptions that market participants use to make valuation decisions. Inputs may include price information, credit data, interest and yield curve data, and other factors specific to the financial instrument. Observable inputs reflect market data obtained from independent sources. In contrast, unobservable inputs reflect the entity’s assumptions about how market participants would value the financial instrument. Valuation techniques should maximize the use of observable inputs to the extent available.

A financial instrument’s level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. The following describes the hierarchy of

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

inputs used to measure fair value and the primary valuation methodologies used for financial instruments measured at fair value on a recurring basis:

- Level 1 Investments whose values are based on quoted prices (unadjusted) for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that a government can access at the measurement date.
- Level 2 Investments with inputs – other than quoted prices included within Level 1 – that are observable for an asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.
- Level 3 Investments classified as Level 3 have unobservable inputs for an asset or liability and may require a degree of professional judgment.

**Short-Term Investment Fund** - At year-end, the Department’s cash and cash equivalents, valued at \$1,082,916, were held in the STIF. Ownership interests of the STIF are determined on a fair market valuation basis as of fiscal year end in accordance with the STIF operating procedures. Valuation of the underlying assets is performed by the custodian. Pool investments are measured at fair value in accordance with GASB Statement No. 72. The Department’s position in the pool is measured and reported at fair value and the STIF is not required to be categorized within the fair value hierarchy.

### NOTE 4 - CAPITAL ASSETS

A summary of changes in the governmental funds’ capital assets for the year ended June 30, 2024 is presented as follows:

	Balance July 1, 2023 (As Restated)	Increases	Decreases	Balance June 30, 2024
Capital Assets, Nondepreciable:				
Equipment	\$ 1,992,189	\$ 82,460		\$ 2,074,649
Total Capital Assets, Nondepreciable	\$ 1,992,189	\$ 82,460	\$ -	\$ 2,074,649
Less Accumulated Depreciation for:				
Equipment	\$ 373,992	\$ 81,854		\$ 455,846
Total Accumulated Depreciation	\$ 373,992	\$ 81,854	\$ -	\$ 455,846
Total Capital Assets, Depreciation, Net	\$ 1,618,197	\$ 606	\$ -	\$ 1,618,803
Capital Assets, Amortizable:				
Right-to-Use Leased Buildings	\$ 246,783	\$ 141,900	\$ 196,289	\$ 192,394
Right-to-Use Leased Equipment	\$ 77,499	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 77,499
Total Capital Assets, Amortizable	\$ 324,282	\$ 141,900	\$ 196,289	\$ 269,893
Less Accumulated Amortization for:				
Right-to-Use Leased Buildings	\$ 111,924	\$ 83,278	\$ 131,197	\$ 64,005
Right-to-Use Leased Machinery and Equipment	\$ 30,126	\$ 15,351	\$ -	\$ 45,477
Total Accumulated Amortization	\$ 142,050	\$ 98,629	\$ 131,197	\$ 109,482
Total Capital Assets, Amortizable, Net	\$ 182,232	\$ 43,271	\$ 65,092	\$ 160,411
<b>Capital Assets, Net</b>	<b>\$ 1,800,429</b>	<b>\$ 43,877</b>	<b>\$ 65,092</b>	<b>\$ 1,779,214</b>

As of June 30, 2024, the total amount of right-to-use leased assets was \$269,893 and the related accumulated amortization was \$109,482, respectively.

**NOTE 5 - CHANGES IN LONG-TERM LIABILITIES**

General long-term liabilities are not recognized in governmental funds until they become due. Consequently, general long-term liabilities not yet due are not reported on the face of the financial statements.

The general long-term liabilities are composed of unused vacation and bonus leave, matching benefits for retirement and social security, net pension liability, net other postemployment benefits (OPEB) liability, and lease liability that will not be paid within the next year.

The compensated absences liability represents payments due for accumulated but unused vacation pay benefits upon the occurrence of relevant events such as employee resignations and retirements. In addition to the vacation leave described above, compensated absences include the accumulated unused portion of the special annual leave bonuses awarded by the North Carolina General Assembly. The bonus leave balance on December 31 is retained by employees and transferred into the next calendar year.

The net pension liability represents the Office's proportionate share of the collective net pension liability reported in the State of North Carolina's 2023 *Annual Comprehensive Financial Report*. This liability represents the Office's portion of the collective total pension liability less the fiduciary net position of the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System. See Note 8 for further information regarding the Office's liabilities, expenditures, deferred outflows of resources, and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions.

The net OPEB liability represents the Office's proportionate share of the collective net OPEB liability reported in the State of North Carolina's 2023 *Annual Comprehensive Financial Report*. This liability represents the Office's portion of the collective total OPEB liability less the fiduciary net position of the Retiree Health Benefit Fund. See Note 9 for further information regarding the Office's policies for recognizing liabilities, expenditures, deferred outflows of resources, and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB.

The lease liability represents the present value of payments expected to be made during the lease term for the Office's right-to-use assets. See notes 4 and 6 for additional information.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

A summary of changes in the long-term liabilities for the year ended June 30, 2024 is presented as follows:

	Balance July 1, 2023 (As Restated)	Additions	Reductions	Balance June 30, 2024	Current Portion
Compensated Absences	1,674,698	767,494	858,076	1,584,116	107,720
Net Pension Liability	12,348,742	270,282	-	12,619,024	-
Net Other Postemployment Benefits Liability	16,711,514	746,499	-	17,458,013	-
Lease Liability	182,232	43,271	65,092	160,411	76,275
<b>Total Long-Term Liabilities, Net</b>	<b>30,917,186</b>	<b>1,827,546</b>	<b>923,168</b>	<b>31,821,564</b>	<b>183,995</b>

### NOTE 6 - LEASES

**Lessee Arrangements** - The Office has lease agreements for the right to use office space and equipment from external parties. The leases expire at various dates, and some have renewal options. Lease liabilities and right-to-use leased assets are recorded based on the present value of payments expected to be made during the lease term, plus any upfront payments and ancillary charges paid to place the leased asset into service. The expected payments are discounted using the interest rate stated per the lease contract, or the Office's estimated incremental borrowing rate if there is no stated contractual interest rate.

The Office's lessee arrangements at June 30, 2024, are summarized below (excluding short-term leases):

Classification:	Number of Lease Contracts	Lease Liabilities June 30, 2024	Current Portion	Lease Terms (1)	Interest Rate Ranges
Lessee:					
Right-to-Use Buildings	3	\$ 128,389	\$ 60,486	3 years	3.30 - 8.30%
Right-to-Use Equipment	1	\$ 32,022	\$ 15,789	5 years	2.10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>\$ 160,411</b>	<b>\$ 76,275</b>		

(1) The lease terms were calculated using weighted averages based on lease payable amounts.

**Annual Requirements** - The annual requirements to pay principal and interest on leases at June 30, 2024, are as follows:

Fiscal Year	Principal	Interest
2025	\$ 76,275	\$ 8,401
2026	\$ 58,856	\$ 3,796
2027	\$ 25,280	\$ 1,055
<b>Total Requirements</b>	<b>160,411</b>	<b>13,252</b>



**NOTE 7 - SERVICE REVENUE – AUDIT FEES**

The Office performs federal compliance audits as specified in the Uniform Guidance. State agencies, universities, and community colleges are billed for the federal compliance audit work performed on a cost reimbursement basis. Additionally, the Office performs financial statement audits for colleges, universities, and agencies. The Office bills colleges and universities for the cost of financial statement audits performed. The Office performs certain other audits on a cost reimbursement basis as required by law. Amounts Due from Agencies and Due from Component Units represent audit fees billed to state agencies, universities, and community colleges.

**NOTE 8 - RETIREMENT PLANS****A. Cost-Sharing, Multiple-Employer, Defined Benefit Plan**

Pension contributions to cost sharing plans are recognized as expenditures in the period to which the payment relates, even if payment is not due until the subsequent period. Consequently, the net pension liability, discussed in Note 5 to the financial statements, is not reported on the face of the governmental funds' financial statements.

*Plan Administration:* The State of North Carolina administers the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System (TSERS) plan. This plan is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer, defined benefit pension plan established by the State to provide pension benefits for general employees and law enforcement officers (LEOs) of the State, general employees and LEOs of its component units, and employees of Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and charter schools not in the reporting entity. Membership is comprised of employees of the State (state agencies and institutions), universities, community colleges, and certain proprietary component units along with the LEAs and charter schools that elect to join the Retirement System. Benefit provisions are established by General Statute 135-5 and may be amended only by the North Carolina General Assembly.

*Benefits Provided:* TSERS provides retirement and survivor benefits. Retirement benefits are determined as 1.82% of the member's average final compensation times the member's years of creditable service. A member's average final compensation is calculated as the average of a member's four highest consecutive years of compensation. General employee plan members are eligible to retire with unreduced retirement benefits at age 65 with five years of membership service, at age 60 with 25 years of creditable service, or at any age with 30 years of creditable service. General employee plan members are eligible to retire with reduced retirement benefits at age 50 with 20 years of creditable service or at age 60 with five years of membership service. Survivor benefits are available to eligible beneficiaries of general members who die while in active service or within 180 days of their last day of service and who also have either completed 20 years of creditable service regardless of age or have completed five years of service and have reached age 60. Eligible beneficiaries may elect to receive a monthly Survivor's Alternate Benefit for life in lieu of the return of the member's contributions that is generally available to beneficiaries of deceased members. The plan does not provide for automatic post-retirement benefit increases.

*Contributions:* Contribution provisions are established by General Statute 135-8 and may be amended only by the North Carolina General Assembly. Plan members are required to

contribute 6% of their annual pay. The contribution rate for employers is set each year by the North Carolina General Assembly in the Appropriations Act and may not be less than the contribution rate required of plan members. The TSERS Board of Trustees establishes a funding policy from which an accrued liability rate and a normal contribution rate are developed by the consulting actuary. The sum of those two rates developed under the funding policy is the actuarially determined contribution rate (ADC). The TSERS Board of Trustees may further adopt a contribution rate policy that is higher than the ADC known as the required employer contribution to be recommended to the North Carolina General Assembly. The Office's contractually-required contribution rate for the year ended June 30, 2024 was 17.64% of covered payroll. Plan members' contributions to the pension plan were \$784,667 the Office's contributions were \$2,306,920 for the year ended June 30, 2024.

The TSERS plan's financial information, including all information about the plan's assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and fiduciary net position, is included in the State of North Carolina's fiscal year 2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. An electronic version of this report is available on the North Carolina Office of the State Controller's website at <https://www.osc.nc.gov/> or by calling the State Controller's Financial Reporting Section at 919-707-0500.

**TSERS Basis of Accounting:** The financial statements of the TSERS plan are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. Plan member contributions are recognized in the period in which the contributions are due. Employer contributions are recognized when due and the employer has a legal requirement to provide the contributions. Benefits and refunds are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the terms of each plan. For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the TSERS plan, and additions to/deductions from the TSERS plan's fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by TSERS.

**Methods Used to Value TSERS Investment:** Pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes, the State Treasurer is the custodian and administrator of the retirement systems. The State Treasurer maintains various investment portfolios in its External Investment Pool. TSERS and other pension plans of the State of North Carolina participate in the Long-Term Investment, Fixed Income Investment, Equity Investment, Real Estate Investment, Alternative Investment, Opportunistic Fixed Income Investment, and Inflation Sensitive Investment portfolios. The Fixed Income Asset Class includes the Long-Term Investment and Fixed Income Investment portfolios. The Global Equity Asset Class includes the Equity Investment portfolio. The investment balance of each pension trust fund represents its share of the fair value of the net position of the various portfolios within the External Investment Pool. Detailed descriptions of the methods and significant assumptions regarding investments of the State Treasurer are provided in the 2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

**Net Pension Liability:** At June 30, 2024, the Office reported a liability of \$12,619,024 for its proportionate share of the collective net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2023. The total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of December 31, 2022, and update procedures were used to roll forward the total pension liability to June 30, 2023. The Office's proportion of the net pension liability was based on a projection of the present

value of future salaries for the Office relative to the projected present value of future salaries for all participating employers, actuarially-determined. As of June 30, 2023, the Office’s proportion was 0.07569%, which was a decrease of 0.00751 from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2022, which was 0.08320%.

*Actuarial Assumptions:* The following table presents the actuarial assumptions used to determine the total pension liability for the TSERS plan at the actuarial valuation date:

Valuation Date	12/31/2022
Inflation	2.5%
Salary Increases*	3.25%- 8.05%
Investment Rate of Return**	6.5%

\* Salary increases include 3.25% inflation and productivity factor.

\*\* Investment rate of return includes inflation assumption and is net of pension plan investment expense.

TSERS currently uses mortality tables that vary by age, gender, employee group (i.e. teacher, general, law enforcement officer) and health status (i.e. disabled and healthy). The current mortality rates are based on published tables and based on studies that cover significant portions of the U.S. public plan population. The mortality rates also contain a provision to reflect future mortality improvements.

The actuarial assumptions used in the December 31, 2022 valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience review for the period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2019.

Future ad hoc cost-of-living adjustment amounts are not considered to be substantively automatic and are therefore not included in the measurement. The projected long-term investment returns and inflation assumptions are developed through review of current and historical capital markets data, sell-side investment research, consultant whitepapers, and historical performance of investment strategies. Fixed income return projections reflect current yields across the U.S. Treasury yield curve and market expectations of forward yields projected and interpolated for multiple tenors and over multiple year horizons. Global public equity return projections are established through analysis of the equity risk premium and the fixed income return projections. Other asset categories and strategies’ return projections reflect the foregoing and historical data analysis. These projections are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. Best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class included in the pension plan’s target asset allocation as of June 30, 2023 (the measurement date) are summarized in the following table:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
Fixed Income	0.9%
Global Equity	6.5%
Real Estate	5.9%
Alternatives	8.2%
Opportunistic Fixed Income	5.0%
Inflation Sensitive	2.7%

The information in the preceding table is based on 30-year expectations developed with an investment consulting firm as part of a study that was completed in early 2022, and is part of the asset, liability, and investment policy of the North Carolina Retirement Systems. The long-term nominal rates of return underlying the real rates of return are arithmetic annualized figures. The real rates of return are calculated from nominal rates by multiplicatively subtracting a long-term inflation assumption of 2.25%. Return projections do not include any excess return expectations over benchmark averages. All rates of return and inflation are annualized. The long-term expected real rate of return for the Bond Index Investment Pool as of June 30, 2023 is 0.78%.

*Discount Rate:* The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 6.5% for the December 31, 2022 valuation. The discount rate is in line with the long-term nominal expected return on pension plan investments. The calculation of the net pension liability is a present value calculation of the future net pension payments. These net pension payments assume that contributions from plan members will be made at the current statutory contribution rate and that contributions from employers will be made at the contractually required rates, actuarially determined. Based on those assumptions, the pension plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of the current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

*Sensitivity of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate:* The following presents the net pension liability of the plan at June 30, 2023 calculated using the discount rate of 6.5%, as well as what the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (5.5%) or 1-percentage-point higher (7.5%) than the current rate:

<u>1% Decrease (5.5%)</u>	<u>Current Discount Rate (6.5%)</u>	<u>1% Increase (7.5%)</u>
\$ 21,663,907	\$ 12,619,024	\$ 5,157,289

*Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions:*  
 For the year ended June 30, 2024, the Office recognized pension expense of \$3,273,571. At June 30, 2024, the Office reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to TSERS from the following sources:

	<u>Deferred Outflows of Resources</u>	<u>Deferred Inflows of Resources</u>
Difference Between Actual and Expected Experience	\$ 1,028,749	\$ 93,137
Changes of Assumptions	443,163	-
Net Difference Between Projected and Actual Earnings on Plan Investments	3,514,397	-
Change in Proportion and Differences Between Employer's Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	232,460	409,590
Contributions Subsequent to the Measurement Date	<u>2,288,130</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u><u>\$ 7,506,899</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 502,727</u></u>

The amount reported as deferred outflows of resources related to contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to TSERS will be recognized as pension expense as follows:

**Schedule of the Net Amount of the Employer's Balances of  
 Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of  
 Resources That will be Recognized in Pension Expense:**

<u>Year Ending June 30:</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2025	\$ 1,632,619
2026	808,036
2027	2,125,263
2028	150,124
<b>Total</b>	<u><u>\$ 4,716,042</u></u>

**B. Defined Contribution Plan**

Internal Revenue Code Section 457 Plan - All permanent employees are eligible to participate in the deferred compensation plan offered by the State of North Carolina in accordance with Internal Revenue Code Section 457. The plan permits each participant to defer a portion of his or her salary until future years. The deferred compensation is available to employees upon separation of service, death, disability, retirement or due to financial hardships if approved by the Board of Trustees of the plan. All costs of administering the

plan are the responsibility of the plan's participants. Voluntary contributions by employees amounted to \$186,927 during the year ended June 30, 2024.

Internal Revenue Code Section 401(k) Plan - Effective January 1, 1985, Chapter 135, Article 5 of the North Carolina General Statutes authorized the creation of the Supplemental Retirement Income Plan of North Carolina in accordance with Internal Revenue Code Section 401(k). All employees who are members of the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System of North Carolina are eligible for enrollment in this plan. Members of the plan may receive their benefits upon retirement, disability, termination, hardship, or death. All costs of administering the plan are the responsibility of the plan's participants. Voluntary contributions by employees amounted to \$220,626 during the year ended June 30, 2024.

**NOTE 9 - OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS**

Other postemployment benefit (OPEB) contributions to cost sharing plans are recognized as expenditures in the period to which the payment relates, even if payment is not due until the subsequent period. Consequently, the net other postemployment benefits liability, discussed in Note 5 to the financial statements, is not reported on the face of the governmental fund financial statements

The Office participates in two postemployment benefit plans, the Retiree Health Benefit Fund and the Disability Income Plan of North Carolina, that are administered by the State of North Carolina as pension and other employee benefit trust funds. Each plan's financial information, including all information about the plans' assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and fiduciary net position, is included in the State of North Carolina's fiscal year 2023 *Annual Comprehensive Financial Report*. An electronic version of this report is available on the North Carolina Office of the State Controller's website at <https://www.osc.nc.gov/> or by calling the State Controller's Financial Reporting Section at 919-707-0500.

**Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and Plan Asset Matters**

*Basis of Accounting:* The financial statements of these plans were prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. Employer contributions are recognized when due and the employer has made a formal commitment to provide the contributions. Benefits are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the terms of each plan. For purposes of measuring the net other postemployment benefits (OPEB) liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB, and OPEB expense, information about the fiduciary net position of each plan, and additions to/deductions from each plans' fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the plans.

*Methods Used to Value Plan Investments:* Pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes, the State Treasurer is the custodian and administrator of the other postemployment benefit funds. The State Treasurer maintains various investment portfolios in its External Investment Pool. The Retiree Health Benefit Fund participates in the External Investment Pool. The Disability Income Plan is invested in the Short-Term Investment Portfolio of the External Investment Pool and the Bond Index External Investment Pool. The investment balance of each other employee benefit trust fund represents its share of the fair value of

the net position of the various portfolios within the pool. Detailed descriptions of the methods and significant assumptions regarding investments of the State Treasurer are provided in the 2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

## A. Plan Descriptions

### 1. Health Benefits

*Plan Administration:* The State of North Carolina administers the North Carolina State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees, referred to as the State Health Plan (the Plan), a healthcare plan exclusively for the benefit of employees of the State, the University of North Carolina System, community colleges, and certain other component units. In addition, Local Education Agencies (LEAs), charter schools, and some select local governments that are not part of the State's financial reporting entity also participate. Health benefit programs and premium rates are determined by the State Treasurer upon approval of the Plan Board of Trustees.

The Retiree Health Benefit Fund (RHBF) has been established by Chapter 135-7, Article 1 of the General Statutes as a fund to provide health benefits to retired and disabled employees and their applicable beneficiaries. RHBF is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer, defined benefit healthcare plan, exclusively for the benefit of former employees of the State, the University of North Carolina System, and community colleges. In addition, LEAs, charter schools, and some select local governments that are not part of the State's financial reporting entity also participate.

By statute, RHBF is administered by the Board of Trustees of the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System (TSERS). RHBF is supported by a percent of payroll contribution from participating employing units. Each year the percentage is set in legislation, as are the maximum per retiree contributions from RHBF to the Plan. The State Treasurer, with the approval of the Plan Board of Trustees, then sets the employer contributions (subject to the legislative cap) and the premiums to be paid by retirees, as well as the health benefits to be provided through the Plan.

*Benefits Provided:* Plan benefits received by retired employees and disabled employees from RHBF are OPEB. The healthcare benefits for retired and disabled employees who are not eligible for Medicare are the same as for active employees as described in Note 8. The plan options change when the former employees become eligible for Medicare. The benefits provided include medical and pharmacy coverage for employees and their dependents. Non-Medicare eligible members have two self-funded options administered by the State Health Plan while Medicare members have three options, including one self-funded option and two fully-insured Medicare Advantage/Prescription Drug Plan options. Self-funded medical and pharmacy claims costs are shared between the covered member and the State Health Plan. If the self-funded plan is elected by a Medicare eligible member, the coverage is secondary to Medicare. Fully-insured claims include cost sharing from covered members with the remaining balance paid by the fully-insured carrier.

Those former employees who are eligible to receive medical benefits from RHBF are long-term disability beneficiaries of the Disability Income Plan of North Carolina and

retirees of TSERS, the Consolidated Judicial Retirement System (CJRS), the Legislative Retirement System (LRS), the University Employees' Optional Retirement Program (ORP), and a small number of local governments, with five or more years of contributory membership service in their retirement system prior to disability or retirement, with the following exceptions: for employees first hired on or after October 1, 2006, and members of the North Carolina General Assembly first taking office on or after February 1, 2007, future coverage as retired employees and retired members of the North Carolina General Assembly is subject to the requirement that the future retiree have 20 or more years of retirement service credit in order to receive coverage on a noncontributory basis. Employees first hired on or after October 1, 2006 and members of the North Carolina General Assembly first taking office on or after February 1, 2007 with 10 but less than 20 years of retirement service credit are eligible for coverage on a partially contributory basis. For such future retirees, the State will pay 50% of the Plan's total noncontributory premium. Employees first hired on or after October 1, 2006 and members of the North Carolina General Assembly first taking office on or after February 1, 2007 with five but less than 10 years of retirement service credit are eligible for coverage on a fully contributory basis.

Section 35.21 (c) & (d) of Session Law 2017-57 repealed retiree medical benefits for employees first hired on or after January 1, 2021. The legislation amended Chapter 135, Article 3B of the General Statutes to require that retirees must earn contributory retirement service in the TSERS (or in an allowed local system unit), CJRS, or LRS prior to January 1, 2021, and not withdraw that service, in order to be eligible for retiree medical benefits under the amended law. Consequently, members first hired on and after January 1, 2021 will not be eligible to receive retiree medical benefits.

RHBF's benefit and contribution provisions are established by Chapter 135-7, Article 1, and Chapter 135, Article 3B of the General Statutes and may be amended only by the North Carolina General Assembly. RHBF does not provide for automatic post-retirement benefit increases.

*Contributions:* Contribution rates to RHBF, which are intended to finance benefits and administrative expenses on a pay-as-you-go basis, are determined by the North Carolina General Assembly in the Appropriations Act. The Office's contractually-required contribution rate for the year ended June 30, 2024 was 7.14% of covered payroll. The Office's contributions to the RHBF were \$933,753 for the year ended June 30, 2024.

In fiscal year 2022, the Plan transferred \$180.51 million to RHBF as a result of cost savings to the Plan over a span of six years. For financial reporting purposes, the transfer was recognized as a nonemployer contributing entity contribution. The contribution was allocated among the RHBF employers and recorded as noncapital contributions. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, the Office recognized noncapital contributions for RHBF of \$22,882.

### **Disability Income**

*Plan Administration:* As discussed in Note 8, short-term and long-term disability benefits are provided through the Disability Income Plan of North Carolina (DIPNC), a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit plan, to the eligible members of TSERS which includes employees of the State, the University of North Carolina System,



community colleges, certain participating component units and LEAs which are not part of the State's reporting entity, and the University Employees' ORP. By statute, DIPNC is administered by the Department of State Treasurer and the Board of Trustees of TSERS.

*Benefits Provided:* Long-term disability benefits are payable as an OPEB from DIPNC after the conclusion of the short-term disability period or after salary continuation payments cease, whichever is later, while the employee is disabled and does not meet the TSERS conditions for unreduced service retirement. An employee is eligible to receive long-term disability benefits provided the following requirements are met: (1) the employee has five or more years of contributing membership service in TSERS or the University Employees' ORP, earned within 96 months prior to becoming disabled or cessation of salary continuation payments, whichever is later; (2) the employee must make application to receive long-term benefits within 180 days after the conclusion of the short-term disability period or after salary continuation payments cease or after monthly payments for Workers' Compensation cease (excluding monthly payments for permanent partial benefits), whichever is later; (3) the employee must be certified by the Medical Board to be mentally or physically disabled for the further performance of his/her usual occupation; (4) the disability must have been continuous, likely to be permanent, and incurred at the time of active employment; (5) the employee must not be eligible to receive an unreduced retirement benefit from TSERS; and (6) the employee must terminate employment as a permanent, full-time employee. A general employee is eligible to receive an unreduced retirement benefit from TSERS after: (1) reaching the age of 65 and completing five years of membership service; (2) reaching the age of 60 and completing 25 years of creditable service; or (3) completing 30 years of creditable service, at any age.

For employees who had five or more years of membership service as of July 31, 2007, during the first 36 months of the long-term disability period, the monthly long-term disability benefit is equal to 65% of one-twelfth of an employee's annual base rate of compensation last payable to the participant or beneficiary prior to the beginning of the short-term disability period, plus the like percentage of one-twelfth of the annual longevity payment and local supplements to which the participant or beneficiary would be eligible. The monthly benefits are subject to a maximum of \$3,900 per month reduced by any primary Social Security disability benefits, by an amount equal to the monthly primary Social Security retirement benefit to which the employee might be entitled should the employee be at least age 62, and by monthly payments for Workers' Compensation to which the participant or beneficiary may be entitled, but the benefits payable shall be no less than \$10 a month. After the first 36 months of the long-term disability, the long-term benefit is calculated in the same manner as described above except the monthly benefit is reduced by an amount equal to a monthly primary Social Security disability benefit to which the participant or beneficiary might be entitled had Social Security disability benefits been awarded. When an employee qualifies for an unreduced service retirement allowance from TSERS, the benefits payable from DIPNC will cease, and the employee will commence retirement under TSERS or the University Employees' ORP.

For employees who had less than five years of membership service as of July 31, 2007, and meet the requirements for long-term disability on or after August 1, 2007, benefits are calculated in the same manner as described above except that after the first 36 months of the long-term disability, no further long-term disability benefits are

payable unless the employee has been approved and is in receipt of primary Social Security benefits.

Benefit and contribution provisions are established by Chapter 135, Article 6, of the General Statutes and may be amended only by the North Carolina General Assembly. The plan does not provide for automatic post-retirement benefit increases.

*Contributions:* Although DIPNC operates on a calendar year, disability income benefits are funded by actuarially determined employer contributions that are established in the Appropriations Act by the North Carolina General Assembly and coincide with the State's fiscal year. The Office's contractually-required contribution rate for the year ended June 30, 2024 was 0.11% of covered payroll. The Office's contributions to DIPNC were \$14,386 for the year ended June 30, 2024.

### **Net OPEB Liability**

*Retiree Health Benefit Fund:* At June 30, 2024, the Office reported a liability of \$17,417,738 for its proportionate share of the collective net OPEB liability for RHBF. The net OPEB liability was measured as of June 30, 2023. The total OPEB liability used to calculate the net OPEB liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of December 31, 2022, and update procedures were used to roll forward the total OPEB liability to June 30, 2023. The Office's proportion of the net OPEB liability was based on a projection of the present value of future salaries for the Office relative to the projected present value of future salaries for all participating employers, actuarially-determined. As of June 30, 2023, the Office's proportion was 0.06536%, which was a decrease of 0.00492 from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2022, which was 0.07028%.

*Disability Income Plan of North Carolina:* At June 30, 2024, the Office reported a liability of \$18,029 for its proportionate share of the collective net OPEB liability for DIPNC. The net OPEB liability was measured as of June 30, 2023. The total OPEB liability used to calculate the net OPEB liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of December 31, 2022, and update procedures were used to roll forward the total OPEB liability to June 30, 2023. The Office's proportion of the net OPEB liability was based on a projection of the present value of future salaries for the Office relative to the projected present value of future salaries for all participating employers, actuarially-determined. As of June 30, 2023, the Office's proportion was 0.06779%, which was a decrease of 0.00699 from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2022, which was 0.07478%.

*Actuarial Assumptions:* The total OPEB liabilities for RHBF and DIPNC were determined by actuarial valuations as of December 31, 2022, using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement, unless otherwise specified. The total OPEB liabilities were then rolled forward to June 30, 2023 utilizing update procedures incorporating the actuarial assumptions.

	Retiree Health Benefit Fund	Disability Income Plan of N.C.
Valuation Date	12/31/2022	12/31/2022
Inflation	2.5%	2.5%
Salary Increases*	3.25% - 8.05%	3.25% - 8.05%
Investment Rate of Return**	6.5%	3.0%
Healthcare Cost Trend Rate - Medical***	6.5% grading down to 5% by 2029	N/A
Healthcare Cost Trend Rate - Prescription Drug***	10% grading down to 5% by 2033	N/A
Healthcare Cost Trend Rate - Prescription Drug Rebates***	7% grading down to 5% by 2033	N/A
Healthcare Cost Trend Rate - Medicare Advantage***	0% through 2025, 5% thereafter	N/A
Healthcare Cost Trend Rate - Administrative***	3%	N/A

\* Salary increases include 3.25% inflation and productivity factor.

\*\* Investment rate of return is net of OPEB plan investment expense, including inflation.

\*\*\* Disability Income Plan of NC eliminated employer reimbursements from the Plan (which included State Health Plan premiums) effective July 1, 2019.

N/A - Not Applicable

The OPEB plans currently use mortality tables that vary by age, gender, employee group (i.e. teacher, other educational employee, general employee, or law enforcement officer) and health status (i.e. disabled or not disabled). The current mortality rates are based on published tables and studies that cover significant portions of the U.S. public plan population. The healthy mortality rates also contain a provision to reflect future mortality improvements.

The projected long-term investment returns and inflation assumptions are developed through review of current and historical capital markets data, sell-side investment research, consultant whitepapers, and historical performance of investment strategies. Fixed income return projections reflect current yields across the U.S. Treasury yield curve and market expectations of forward yields projected and interpolated for multiple tenors and over multiple year horizons. Global public equity return projections are established through analysis of the equity risk premium and the fixed income return projections. Other asset categories and strategies' return projections reflect the foregoing and historical data analysis. These projections are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. DIPNC is primarily invested in the Bond Index Investment Pool as of June 30, 2023.

Best estimates of real rates of return for each major asset class included in RHBF's target asset allocation as of June 30, 2023 (the measurement date) are summarized in the following table

:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
Fixed Income	0.9%
Global Equity	6.5%
Real Estate	5.9%
Alternatives	8.2%
Opportunistic Fixed Income	5.0%
Inflation Sensitive	2.7%

The information in the preceding table is based on 30-year expectations developed with an investment consulting firm as part of a study that was completed in early 2022, and is part of the asset, liability, and investment policy of the North Carolina Retirement Systems. The long-term nominal rates of return underlying the real rates of return are arithmetic annualized figures. The real rates of return are calculated from nominal rates by multiplicatively subtracting a long-term inflation assumption of 2.25%. Return projections do not include any excess return expectations over benchmark averages. All rates of return and inflation are annualized. The long-term expected real rate of return for the Bond Index Investment Pool as of June 30, 2023 is 0.78%.

Actuarial valuations of the plans involve estimates of the value of reported amounts and assumptions about the probability of occurrence of events far into the future. The results of the valuations fluctuate from year to year as actual experience differs from assumptions. This includes demographic experiences (i.e., mortality and retirement) that differ from expected. This also includes financial experiences (i.e., member medical costs and contributions) that vary from expected trends. Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual revision as actual results are compared to past expectations and new estimates are made about the future.

The actuarial assumptions used for RHBF are consistent with those used to value the pension benefits of TSERS where appropriate. These assumptions are based on the most recent pension valuations available. The discount rate used for RHBF reflects a pay-as-you-go approach.

Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes of the plans are based on the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the employer and plan members) and include the types of benefits provided at the time of each valuation and the historical pattern of sharing of benefit costs between the employer and plan members to that point. The RHBF is funded solely by employer contributions and benefits are dependent on membership requirements.

The he actuarial methods and assumptions used for DIPNC include techniques that are designed to reduce the effects of short-term volatility in actuarial accrued liabilities and the actuarial value of assets, consistent with the long-term perspective of the calculations. Prior to July 1, 2019, employers received a reimbursement from DIPNC for employer costs, including the employer’s share of the State Health Plan premiums, incurred during the second six months of the first year of a member’s short-term disability coverage. With the elimination of the reimbursement to employers, State Health Plan premiums are no longer reimbursed by DIPNC for the benefits that were effective on or after July 1, 2019.

The actuarial assumptions used in the December 31, 2022 valuations were generally based on the results of an actuarial experience study prepared as of December 31, 2019, as amended for updates to certain assumptions (such as medical claims and medical trend

rate assumptions) implemented based on annual reviews that have occurred since that experience study.

*Discount Rate:* The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability for RHBF was 3.65% at June 30, 2023 compared to 3.54% at June 30, 2022. The projection of cash flow used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from employers would be made at the current statutorily determined contribution rate. Based on the above assumptions, the plan’s fiduciary net position was not projected to be available to make projected future benefit payments to current plan members. As a result, a municipal bond rate of 3.65% was used as the discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability. The 3.65% rate is based on the Bond Buyer 20-year General Obligation Index as of June 30, 2023.

The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability for DIPNC was 3.00% at June 30, 2023 compared to 3.08% at June 30, 2022. The projection of cash flow used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from plan members would be made at the current contribution rate and that contributions from employers would be made at statutorily required rates, actuarially determined. Based on those assumptions, the plan’s fiduciary net position was not projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to the current plan members. In order to develop the blended discount rate of 3.00%, 3.00% was used during the period that the plan was projected to have a fiduciary net position, and a municipal bond rate of 3.65% was used during the period that the plan was projected to have no fiduciary net position. The 3.65% rate is based on the Bond Buyer 20-year General Obligation Index as of June 30, 2023

*Sensitivity of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate:* The following presents the Office’s proportionate share of the net OPEB liability of the plans, as well as what the plans’ net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower or 1-percentage-point higher than the current discount rate:

<b>Net OPEB Liability</b>			
	<u>1% Decrease (2.65%)</u>	<u>Current Discount Rate (3.65%)</u>	<u>1% Increase (4.65%)</u>
RHBF	\$ 20,546,380	\$ 17,417,738	\$ 14,867,888
	<u>1% Decrease (2.00%)</u>	<u>Current Discount Rate (3.00%)</u>	<u>1% Increase (4.00%)</u>
DIPNC	\$ 21,674	\$ 18,028	\$ 14,319

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

*Sensitivity of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Healthcare Cost Trend Rates:* The following presents the net OPEB liability of the plans, as well as what the plans' net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using healthcare cost trend rates that are 1-percentage-point lower or 1-percentage-point higher than the current healthcare cost trend rates:

<b>Net OPEB Liability</b>						
	1% Decrease (Medical - 4% - 5.5%, Pharmacy - 4% - 9%, Pharmacy Rebate - 4% - 6%, Med. Advantage - 0% - 4%, Administrative - 2%)		Current Healthcare Cost Trend Rates (Medical - 5% - 6.5%, Pharmacy - 5% - 10%, Pharmacy Rebate - 5% - 7%, Med. Advantage - 0% - 5%, Administrative - 3%)		1% Increase (Medical - 6% - 7.5%, Pharmacy - 6% - 11%, Pharmacy Rebate - 6% - 8%, Med. Advantage - 0% - 6%, Administrative - 4%)	
RHBF	\$	14,379,095	\$	17,417,738	\$	21,333,760

Effective with the actuarial valuation as of December 31, 2021, the liability for the State's potential reimbursement of costs incurred by employers was removed because the reimbursement by DIPNC was eliminated for disabilities occurring on or after July 1, 2019. Thus sensitivity to changes in the healthcare cost trend rates is not applicable for DIPNC.

*OPEB Expense:* For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, the Office recognized OPEB expense as follows:

<b>OPEB Plan</b>	<b>Amount</b>
RHBF	\$ (611,862.00)
DIPNC	24,856.00
<b>Total OPEB Expense</b>	<b>\$ (587,006.00)</b>

*Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB:*  
 At June 30, 2024, the Office reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

**Employer Balances of Deferred Outflows of Resources  
 Related to OPEB by Classification:**

	RHBF	DIPNC	Total
Differences Between Actual and Expected Experience	\$ 191,803.00	\$ 15,800.00	\$ 207,603.00
Changes of Assumptions	1,886,871.00	1,314.00	1,888,185.00
Net Difference Between Projected and Actual Earnings on OPEB Plan Investments	139,142.00	23,549.00	162,691.00
Changes in Proportion and Differences Between Employer's Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	802,971.00	2,331.00	805,302.00
Contributions Subsequent to the Measurement Date	926,148.00	14,268.00	940,416.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,946,935.00</b>	<b>\$ 57,262.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,004,197.00</b>

**Employer Balances of Deferred Inflows of Resources  
 Related to OPEB by Classification:**

	RHBF	DIPNC	Total
Differences Between Actual and Expected Experience	\$ 17,066.00	\$ 9,986.00	\$ 27,052.00
Changes of Assumptions	4,646,912.00	3,078.00	4,649,990.00
Net Difference Between Projected and Actual Earnings on OPEB Plan Investments	-	-	-
Changes in Proportion and Differences Between Employer's Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	1,405,785.00	4,900.00	1,410,685.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,069,763.00</b>	<b>\$ 17,964.00</b>	<b>\$ 6,087,727.00</b>

Amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources related to contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as reductions of the net OPEB liabilities related to RHBF and DIPNC in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized as OPEB expense as follows:

**Schedule of the Net Amount of the Employer's Balances of  
Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of  
Resources That will be Recognized in OPEB Expense:**

Year Ending June 30:	RHBF	DIPNC
2025	\$(1,134,529.00)	\$ 8,565.00
2026	(1,199,316.00)	5,253.00
2027	(688,476.00)	7,428.00
2028	(26,655.00)	2,182.00
2029	-	997.00
Thereafter	-	605.00
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$(3,048,976.00)</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 25,030.00</u></b>

**NOTE 10 - RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Office 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. These exposures to loss are handled via a combination of methods, including participation in state-administered insurance programs, purchase of commercial insurance, and self-retention of certain risks. There have been no significant reductions in insurance coverage from the previous year and settled claims have not exceeded coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.

**A. Employee Benefit Plans**

**1. State Health Plan**

The Office's employees and retirees are provided comprehensive major medical care benefits. Coverage is funded by contributions to the State Health Plan (Plan), a discretely presented component unit of the State of North Carolina. The Plan is funded by employer and employee contributions. The Plan has contracted with third parties to process claims. See Note 9, Other Postemployment Benefits, for additional information regarding retiree health benefits.

**2. Death Benefit Plan of North Carolina**

Term life insurance (death benefits) of \$25,000 to \$50,000 is provided to eligible workers who enroll in the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System. This



Death Benefit Plan is administered by the State Treasurer and funded via employer contributions. The employer contribution rate was 0.13% for the current fiscal year.

### **3. Disability Income Plan**

Short-term and long-term disability benefits are provided to the Office's employees through the Disability Income Plan of North Carolina (DIPNC), part of the State's Pension and Other Employee Benefit Trust Funds. Short-term benefits are paid by the Office for up to twelve months. The Board of Trustees of the DIPNC may extend the short-term disability benefits for up to an additional twelve months. During the extended period of short-term disability benefits, payments are made directly by the DIPNC to the beneficiary. As discussed in Note 9, long-term disability benefits are payable as other postemployment benefits from DIPNC after the conclusion of the short-term disability period or after salary continuation payments cease, whichever is later, for as long as an employee is disabled.

## **B. Other Risk Management and Insurance Activities**

### **1. Automobile, Fire, and Other Property Losses**

The Office is required to maintain fire and lightning coverage on all state-owned buildings and contents through the State Property Fire Insurance Fund (Fund), an internal service fund of the State. Such coverage is provided at no cost to the Office for operations supported by the State's General Fund. Other operations not supported by the State's General Fund are charged for the coverage. Losses covered by the Fund are subject to a \$5,000 per occurrence deductible. However, some agencies have chosen a higher deductible for a reduction in premium.

All state-owned vehicles are covered by liability insurance through a private insurance company and handled by the North Carolina Department of Insurance. The liability limits for losses are \$1,000,000 per claim and \$10,000,000 per occurrence. The Department pays premiums to the North Carolina Department of Insurance for the coverage.

### **2. Public Officers' and Employees' Liability Insurance**

The risk of tort claims of up to \$1,000,000 per claimant is retained under the authority of the State Tort Claims Act. In addition, the State provides excess public officers' and employees' liability insurance up to \$2,000,000 per claim and \$10,000,000 in the aggregate per fiscal year via contract with private insurance companies. The Office pays the premium, based on a composite rate, directly to the private insurer.

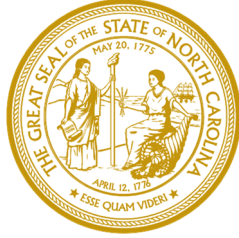
### **3. Employee Dishonesty and Computer Fraud**

The Office is protected for losses from employee dishonesty and computer fraud. This coverage is with a private insurance company and is handled by the North Carolina Department of Insurance. The Office is charged a premium by the private insurance company. Coverage limit is \$5,000,000 per occurrence. The private insurance company pays 90% of each loss less a \$100,000 deductible.

### **4. Statewide Workers' Compensation Program**

The North Carolina Workers' Compensation Program provides benefits to workers injured on the job. All employees of the State and its component units are included in the program. When an employee is injured, the Office's primary responsibility is to arrange for and provide the necessary treatment for work related injury. The Office is responsible for paying medical benefits and compensation in accordance with the North Carolina Workers' Compensation Act. The Office retains the risk for workers' compensation.

Additional details on the state-administered risk management programs are disclosed in the State's *Annual Comprehensive Financial Report*, issued by the Office of the State Controller.



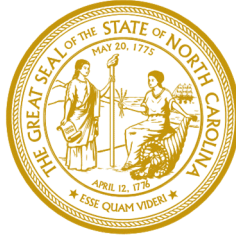
# **REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

**North Carolina Office of the State Auditor  
 Required Supplementary Information  
 Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance  
 Budget and Actual (Budgetary Basis-Non-GAAP) - General Fund  
 For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024**

**Schedule B-1**

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual (Cash Basis)	Variance
	Original	Final		
<b>REVENUES</b>				
Services - Audit Fees to Agencies and Component Units	\$ 7,185,485	\$ 7,185,485	\$ 6,510,980	\$ (674,505)
Other Revenue	405	405	928	523
Total Revenues	7,185,890	7,185,890	6,511,908	(673,982)
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>				
Salaries and Benefits	22,289,318	21,738,030	18,254,265	(3,483,765)
Contracted Personal Services	1,906,139	1,634,983	1,433,518	(201,465)
Supplies and Materials	38,037	125,862	55,732	(70,130)
Travel	292,038	169,159	117,160	(51,999)
Communication	65,513	154,907	92,312	(62,595)
Utilities	8,653	8,952	6,141	(2,811)
Data Processing Services	200,934	286,442	286,437	(5)
Other Services	163,051	108,530	68,497	(40,033)
Rent/Lease of Property and Equipment	79,960	7,670	3,083	(4,587)
Service and Maintenance	198,936	342,865	336,396	(6,469)
Capital Outlay	676,030	1,030,292	849,885	(180,407)
Insurance and Bonding	1,925	2,583	1,429	(1,154)
Other Expenditures	34,785	256,129	179,448	(76,681)
Right-to-Use Lease Amortization	-	-	98,629	98,629
Right-to-Use Lease Interest	-	104,747	6,118	(98,629)
Total Expenditures	25,955,319	25,971,151	21,789,051	(4,182,100)
Excess Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	(18,769,429)	(18,785,261)	(15,277,143)	3,508,118
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</b>				
Transfers from State Reserve Fund	130,361	130,361	130,361	-
Encumbrance Carryforward - FY2023	-	567,120	567,120	-
Transfers Out	-	(551,288)	(551,288)	(0)
Encumbrance Carryforward - FY2024	-	-	-	-
State Appropriations	18,639,068	18,639,068	15,130,950	(3,508,118)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	18,769,429	18,785,261	15,277,143	(3,508,118)
Net Change in Fund Balance	-	-	-	-
Fund Balance - July 1	1,082,916	1,082,916	1,082,916	-
Fund Balance - June 30	\$ 1,082,916	\$ 1,082,916	\$ 1,082,916	\$ -
			\$ -	

The accompanying notes to the required supplementary information are an integral part of this schedule.



# **NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

**SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE – BUDGET AND ACTUAL (BUDGETARY BASIS-NON-GAAP) – GENERAL FUND**

**A. BUDGETARY PROCESS**

The State’s annual budget is prepared principally on the cash basis. The 1985 General Assembly enacted certain special provisions which state that the original budget as certified in the appropriations act is the legal budget for all agencies. These special provisions also state that agencies may spend more than was originally certified in various line items provided the over-expenditure meets certain criteria and is authorized by the Director of the Budget. The process of approving these over-expenditures results in the final authorized budget amounts.

**B. BUDGETARY (CASH) BASIS VS. GAAP (MODIFIED ACCRUAL)**

The Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance - Budget and Actual (Budgetary Basis-Non-GAAP) - Governmental Fund, presents comparisons of the legally adopted budget with actual data on a budgetary basis. Accounting principles applied to develop data on a budgetary basis differ significantly from those principles used to present financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). The following describes the major differences between budgetary financial data and GAAP financial data.

***Basis differences.*** Budgetary fund balance is accounted for on the cash basis of accounting, while GAAP fund balance for governmental funds is accounted for on the modified accrual basis of accounting. Accrued revenues and expenditures are recognized in the GAAP financial statements.

The following table presents a reconciliation of resulting basis differences in the fund balance (budgetary basis) at June 30, 2024 to the fund balance on a modified accrual basis (GAAP).

	<b>Total Governmental Funds</b>
	<hr/>
Fund Balance (Budgetary Basis) June 30, 2024	\$1,082,916
 <u>Reconciling Adjustments:</u>	
<b>Basis Differences:</b>	
<b>Accrued Revenues:</b>	
Receivables	2,292,047
Less: Unavailable Revenue	(1,285,871)
Total Accrued Revenues	<hr/> 1,006,176 <hr/>

<b>Accrued Expenditures</b>	
Payables	(209,836)
Total Basis Differences	<u>796,340</u>
<b>Other Adjustments:</b>	
Inventory	<u>19,636</u>
Fund Balance (GAAP Basis) June 30, 2024	<u><u>\$1,898,892</u></u>



**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROLS OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING  
AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS***

To the North Carolina  
Office of the State Auditor  
Raleigh, North Carolina

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, the financial statements of the North Carolina Office of the State Auditor (the “Office”) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Office’s basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated February 26, 2025.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Office’s internal control over financial reporting (internal controls) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Office’s internal controls. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Office’s internal controls.

A deficiency in internal controls 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 controls, 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 controls 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 controls 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 the Office’s financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. 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 did not disclose any instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Governmental Auditing Standards*.



Purpose of this Report

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

*Sharpe Patel PLLC*

February 26, 2025

# ORDERING INFORMATION

---

COPIES OF THIS REPORT MAY BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING:

Office of the State Auditor  
State of North Carolina  
20601 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699

Telephone: (919) 807-7500  
Fax: (919) 807-7647  
Internet: [www.auditor.nc.gov](http://www.auditor.nc.gov)



To report alleged incidents of fraud, waste or abuse in state government contact the Office of the State Auditor's Tipline:

**Telephone:** (800) 730-8477

**Internet:** [www.auditor.nc.gov/about-us/state-auditors-tipline](http://www.auditor.nc.gov/about-us/state-auditors-tipline)

For additional information contact the North Carolina Office of the State Auditor at:

**(919) 807-7666**

