# STEM PREPARATORY ACADEMY AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**JUNE 30, 2022** 

Operating Tennessee Public Charter Schools: STEM PREPARATORY ACADEMY MIDDLE SCHOOL STEM PREPARATORY ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL

# STEM PREPARATORY ACADEMY

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# STEM PREPARATORY ACADEMY INTRODUCTORY SECTION

# **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Dr. Julie Hudson Secretary
Marees Choppin Treasurer
Dr. Marilyn Odom Director
Anne Davis Director
Mohamed Shukri Director
Mara Rivera Director

## LEADERSHIP TEAM

Dr. Kristin McGraner Founder and Executive Director
Charlie Williams Director of Finance and Operations



#### Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of Directors STEM Preparatory Academy Nashville, Tennessee

#### **Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements**

#### **Opinions**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund of STEM Preparatory Academy, operating Tennessee Public Charter Schools STEM Preparatory Academy Middle School and STEM Preparatory Academy High School, (collectively "STEM"), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2022, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise STEM Preparatory Academy's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and each major fund of STEM Preparatory Academy, as of June 30, 2022, 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.

#### **Basis for Opinions**

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. 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 STEM Preparatory Academy and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

#### Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

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

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

### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

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

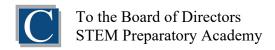
We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

#### Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis on pages 6 through 12 and the schedule of the proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) and the schedule of employer contributions on pages 47 through 49 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with 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.

## Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise STEM Preparatory Academy's basic financial statements. The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards and state financial assistance, as required by the State of Tennessee, schedule of changes in long-term debt by individual issue, schedule of changes in lease obligations, schedule of lease requirements by year, schedule of assets, liabilities and fund balances by school, and schedule of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances by school, as listed in the table of contents, are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the schedule of expenditures of federal awards and state financial assistance, schedule of changes in long-term debt by individual issue, schedule of changes in lease obligations, schedule of lease requirements by year, schedule of assets, liabilities and fund balances by school, and schedule of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances by school are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.



#### Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information included in the annual report. The other information comprises the introductory section but does not include the basic financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinions on the basic financial statements do not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon.

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

#### Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated March 24, 2023, on our consideration of STEM Preparatory Academy's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of STEM Preparatory Academy's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards in considering STEM Preparatory Academy's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Nashville, Tennessee March 24, 2023

Crosslin, PLLC

Our discussion and analysis of the annual financial performance of STEM Preparatory Academy, operating Tennessee Public Charter Schools STEM Preparatory Academy Middle School and STEM Preparatory Academy High School ("STEM"), provides an overview of the organization's financial activities for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022 as compared to 2021. This section should be read in conjunction with the financial statements, which follow this section.

#### FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

STEM's governmental activities total assets and deferred outflows of resources increased by \$6,529,456 in 2022 or 43%, while total liabilities and deferred inflows of resources increased \$4,812,809 or 61%. Total revenues for STEM decreased by \$747,279 or 4%. STEM's governmental activities total program costs for 2022 increased \$2,765,854 or 24%. Overall, STEM's 2022 net position increased \$1,716,647. The decrease in revenue was the result of a scheduled decrease in federal funding related to the broader economic impact of COVID-19 in Nashville and throughout the state of Tennessee, and the forgiveness of a PPP loan in 2021, offset by an increase per pupil BEP funding. Increased expenses were due to increased compensation costs related to an increase in instructional staff and an increase in occupancy costs related to the return of in-person instruction.

#### OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

This financial report consists of a series of financial statements, notes to those statements, required supplementary information, and supplementary information. The statements are organized so that the reader can understand STEM as a whole and then proceed to a detailed look at specific financial activities of STEM.

#### REPORTING STEM AS A WHOLE

In general, users of these financial statements want to know if STEM is in a better or worse financial position as a result of the year's activities. The Statement of Net Position and Statement of Activities report information about STEM as a whole and about STEM's activities in a manner that helps to answer that question. These statements include all assets and liabilities using the accrual basis of accounting. Under the accrual basis, all of the current year's revenue and expenses are taken into consideration regardless of when cash is received or paid. The statements start on page 13.

The Statement of Net Position reports STEM's net position (total assets plus deferred outflows of resources less total liabilities less deferred inflows of resources). Private sector entities would report retained earnings. STEM's net position balance at year-end represents available resources for future growth. The Statement of Activities reports the change in net position as a result of activity during the year. Private sector entities have a similar report titled statement of operations, which reports net income. It provides the user a tool to assist in determining the direction of STEM's financial health during the year. Users will want to consider non-financial factors as well as the financial data in arriving at a conclusion regarding the overall health of STEM.

STEM's fund financial statements, the Balance Sheet and the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances, begin on page 15. The statements provide detailed information about STEM's most significant funds, not the organization as a whole. Funds are established by STEM as required to help manage money for particular purposes and compliance with various donor and grant provisions.

STEM's funds are categorized as "governmental funds." Governmental funds focus on how money flows into and out of the funds and the balances left at year-end that are available for spending in future periods. Fund financial statements are reported using an accounting method called "modified accrual" accounting, which measures cash and other financial assets that can readily be converted to cash. This basis of accounting is different from the accrual basis used in the government-wide financial statements to report on STEM as a whole. The relationship between governmental activities, as reported in the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities, and governmental funds, as reported in the Balance Sheet and the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances is reconciled in the basic financial statements on pages 16 and 18.

#### GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

STEM's assets and deferred outflows of resources exceeded liabilities and deferred inflows of resources at the close of the fiscal year, resulting in net position of \$9,214,990. STEM's net position includes \$6,199,882 of cash and cash equivalents. All cash is available to meet STEM's ongoing operating activities and growth strategy.

As of June 30, 2022, STEM had invested a total of \$8,453,517 in capital assets net of accumulated depreciation. This investment includes instructional and support furniture, instructional computers for teachers, mobile student computer labs, maintenance equipment, school buses, a modular building, and leasehold improvements to the leased buildings.

In August 2013 management secured a long-term lease with the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County ("Metro"), which includes considerations for capital improvements. The agreement was amended in July 2014 to include additional properties to be leased by STEM. STEM also secured construction loans to fund improvements to the schools. The lease term with Metro is for 10 years ending July 2024 with two 5-year extensions. In December 2021, STEM purchased its high school facility for \$2,100,000 and consolidated outstanding construction loans into a single loan. As of June 30, 2022, STEM has an outstanding principal balance of \$6,902,216 on the loan.

During fiscal year 2019, STEM entered into two long-term capital lease agreements with a bank for the use of 17 school buses. Aggregate monthly lease payments on the school bus agreements total \$21,201.

Effective July 1, 2021, STEM adopted GASB No. 87 *Leases*. The adoption resulted in the recognition of right-to-use lease assets and related right-to-use lease liabilities for STEM's middle school building lease. The adoption resulted in an \$18,859 adjustment to beginning net position as of June 30, 2021 as a result of the adoption. As of June 30, 2022, the Organization had right-to-use lease assets, net of \$2,007,884 and right-to-use lease liabilities totaling \$2,425,263.

Additional information on the leases, loans, and property and equipment are located in the notes to the financial statements.

A schedule of STEM's net position as of June 30, 2022 and 2021 is as follows:

	2022	2021 (As Restated)
Current assets Noncurrent assets Total assets	\$ 7,532,221 12,980,551 20,512,772	\$ 6,088,345 <u>8,752,120</u> 14,840,465
Deferred outflows of resources	1,373,953	516,804
Current liabilities Noncurrent liabilities Total liabilities	1,302,710 8,882,403 10,185,113	1,007,850 5,716,182 6,724,032
Deferred inflows of resources	2,486,622	1,134,894
Net position: Net investment in capital assets Restricted Unrestricted	1,042,325 2,489,112 5,683,553	1,070,791 1,312,882 5,114,670
Total net position	<u>\$ 9,214,990</u>	\$ 7,498,343

STEM had deferred inflows of \$2,486,622 related to pensions at June 30, 2022. Deferred outflows totaling \$1,373,953 are related to pensions.

Total revenues generated from government grants, governmental funds, and donations were \$16,089,198 during the 2022 fiscal year which is a \$514,992 or 3% increase over 2021. Total expenses were \$14,533,871 during the 2022 fiscal year, which was \$2,765,858 higher than 2021. Revenue decreased year over year, however the overall increase in net position was the result of an increase in per pupil BEP funding. Revenues decreased due to a scheduled decrease in federal funding related to the broader economic impact of COVID-19 in Nashville and throughout the state of Tennessee, and revenue recognized in 2021 from the forgiveness of a PPP loan previously obtained. Overall expenses increased due to increased compensation and occupancy costs with the return to in-person instruction.

A schedule of STEM's revenue and expenses for the years ended June 30, 2022 and 2021, is as follows. The schedule is for the organization as a whole, not for the governmental funds.

Revenues	2022	2021 (As Restated)
Contributions	\$ 157,672	\$ 174,094
District funding	14,655,493	12,712,153
Federal and state grants	1,276,033	2,687,959
Other	161,320	1,423,591
Total revenues	16,250,518	16,997,797
Expenses		
Instructional	205,753	225,930
Occupancy	1,259,937	658,897
Office	289,272	207,103
Organizational development	84,838	47,590
Other	144,144	65,889
Service fees	1,122,139	946,377
Employee compensation	8,323,868	7,058,055
Staff development	166,943	105,462
Transportation	1,192,976	869,827
Interest	386,552	342,150
Depreciation and amortization	1,357,449	1,240,737
Total expenses	14,533,871	11,768,017
Change in net position	\$ 1,716,647	\$ 5,229,780

#### FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE ORGANIZATION'S FUNDS

STEM's funds, as presented on the Balance Sheet on page 15, report a combined fund balance of \$7,094,305. All of STEM's total funds are in the General Purpose School Fund, which is the chief operating fund of the organization. STEM has two other major funds consisting of the Federal and State Grants Fund and the Restricted Contribution Fund.

Due to the different basis of accounting, there is a difference between the amounts reported under STEM's funds and the amounts reported as government-wide. For the year-ended June 30, 2022, the differences consist of capital assets, long-term debt, unallowable revenues for grants, lease assets and liabilities, and pensions which are not reported in STEM's funds.

#### SCHOOL MISSION AND MODEL

STEM Preparatory Academy provides a college preparatory education with an integrated focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). In serving over 1,000 students within our two schools, STEM Prep Middle (5-8) and STEM Prep High (9-12), we aim to increase the number of underrepresented students who (1) successfully graduate from the most competitive universities in the country, and (2) become the leaders and innovators of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Our vision is to become a national model of STEM learning and excellence in instructional effectiveness. We aim to become Nashville's premier public school and first choice for families in South Nashville.

STEM Preparatory Academy was founded upon three core beliefs: 1) every child deserves a rigorous, college preparatory education delivered by highly effective teachers, 2) a culture of accountability and high expectations develops learners and leaders, and 3) excellent schools are deeply and broadly tied to the communities they serve.

The STEM model is designed to ensure students master basic skills in literacy and mathematics; strengthen critical-thinking skills and knowledge in the STEM content areas; rigorously prepare for high school and college; and engage and lead peers in learning and active citizenship. Moreover, the cornerstone of the STEM academic model is inquiry-based instruction and project-based learning through a capstone project progression. These projects require students to think critically, write, research, present and build 21st Century skills that will enable them to access and persist in the jobs of the future. In addition, the school engages students in the arts and service learning, creating well-rounded students who are socially responsible and will contribute to their community.

STEM's student body is among the most diverse in the state of Tennessee. Families originate from all corners of the globe, speaking over twenty different languages and adding incalculable richness to the educational experience of our students. Moreover, the school serves a higher concentration of economically disadvantaged students and English Language Learners than our peers across the city and the state. The majority of STEM students qualify for free or reduced-price meals, while 80% have been classified as English Learners during their academic career.

Since opening its doors in July 2011, STEM has been honored with numerous awards for outstanding student and teacher performance, including: Tennessee Department of Education Reward School, Nashville Public Education Foundation's Inspiring Innovator Award, Community Advocate of the Year, Middle School Teacher of the Year, Innovative School of the Year, and Tech Educator of the Year.

#### Nashville Newcomer Academy

In a first-of-its-kind partnership, in 2016 STEM launched The Nashville Newcomer Academy (NNA) with Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools and the Mayor's Office to serve the youngest New Americans with the most urgent needs. The partnership is designed to address the unique needs of English Learners, specifically our city's newcomer students, through direct service delivery. STEM has served approximately 240 newcomer students through the NNA program since its inception. While our city's current EL interventions and newcomer services are robust and demonstrate effectiveness, the newcomer population continues to grow year over year and additional capacity is required to ensure EL students achieve significant gains and advance in the college and career trajectory.

## STEM Prep High

#### Class of 2022:

In May 2022, STEM graduated its fourth high school class, comprised predominantly of students who have been continuously enrolled at STEM since middle school. The graduating class of earned \$4.7 million in college scholarships and 100 percent of graduates were accepted into post-secondary institutions.

Further, through STEM's dual credit partnership, the graduating class earned over 200 college credits. Students enrolled in STEM's Health Sciences Pathway completed requisite coursework and practice, per the Tennessee Board of Health and the Department of Education, for the Certified Medical Assistant (CMA) license.

#### Student and Family Counseling Program

Through the school's dynamic counseling program, STEM seeks to provide middle and high school students with the counseling services their urgent needs demand, and in so doing, reduce the barriers to learning and achievement. The counseling program is designed to achieve the following objectives born from STEM's current work and vision for comprehensive services to all children:

- 1. Raise student achievement by addressing non-academic barriers to learning and development;
- 2. Strengthen family engagement among the child and school through holistic student and family services and positive social networks;
- 3. Measure student and family outcomes, identifying the program features with the most impact on student achievement, family engagement and stability.

In sum, STEM aims to address the mental health and emotional needs our students and families that pose material challenges to daily classroom learning. In 2021-2022, the impact of the counseling program was broad and deep, providing support to hundreds of families with a wide variety of needs. In total, the mental health team conducted over 1,300 hours of counseling, as summarized below.

Service type	<b>Individuals Served</b>	Number of sessions	Approx. hours
Crisis intervention	145	500	600
Long-term counseling	56	664	796
Total	201	1,164	1,396

#### STUDENT ENROLLMENT FACTORS AND NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET

Fiscal year 2023 enrollment is projected to be over 520 students in the middle school (including the Newcomer Academy) and 500 students in the high school. Additionally, fiscal year 2023 will represent the seventh year of operations for Nashville Newcomer Academy. The school expects per pupil BEP funding to remain flat for the 2022-23 school year.

#### CONTACTING THE SCHOOL'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

This financial report is designed to provide our students' parents, Davidson County taxpayers, donors, creditors, authorities over grant funding and agencies tasked with oversight of Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools with a general overview of the School's finances and to demonstrate the School's accountability for the money it receives. For questions about this report or additional financial information, contact the School's Executive Director, Kristin McGraner, at 1162 Foster Ave, Nashville, TN 37210, by telephone at (615) 921-2200 or email kmcgraner@stemprepacademy.org.

# STEM PREPARATORY ACADEMY STATEMENT OF NET POSITION JUNE 30, 2022

	Governmental
	Activities
ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 6,199,882
Accounts receivable	1,286,239
Other current assets	46,100
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	8,453,517
Right of use lease assets, net of accumulated amortization	2,037,922
Net pension asset	2,191,029
Restricted Asset:	
TCRS Stabilization Reserve Trust	298,083
Total assets	20,512,772
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Pensions	1,373,953
LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable	379,774
Accrued expenses	356,225
Right of use lease liability, due within one year	307,954
Right of use lease liability, due in more than one year	2,117,309
Long-term debt due within one year	258,757
Long-term debt due in more than one year	6,765,094
Total liabilities	10,185,113
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Pensions	2,486,622
NET POSITION	
Net investment in capital assets	1,042,325
Restricted	2,489,112
Unrestricted	5,683,553
Total net position	\$ 9,214,990
Total net position	<u>υ 9,214,990</u>

# STEM PREPARATORY ACADEMY STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022

					. I	Functions	
				Student			
			In	struction and			
GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES:		Total		Services	Ad	ministration	Fundraising
EXPENSES							
Instructional	\$	205,753	\$	205,753	\$	-	\$ -
Occupancy		1,259,937		1,007,950		251,987	-
Office		289,272		-		289,272	-
Organizational development		84,838		-		84,838	-
Other		144,144		144,144		-	-
Professional services and fees		1,122,139		-		1,122,139	-
Employee compensation		8,323,868		6,484,370		1,839,498	-
Staff development		166,943		140,481		26,462	-
Transportation		1,192,976		1,192,976		-	-
Interest		386,552		-		386,552	-
Depreciation and amortization		1,357,449		1,085,959		271,490	<u>-</u>
Total expenses		14,533,871		10,261,633		4,272,238	-
PROGRAM REVENUES							
Operating grants and contributions		911,391		911,391		-	-
Capital grants and contributions		364,642	_	364,642			
Net program expenses		13,257,838	\$	8,985,600	<u>\$</u>	4,272,238	<u>\$</u>
GENERAL REVENUES							
Contributions		157,672					
District funding		14,655,493					
Other		161,320					
Total general revenues		14,974,485					
CHANGE IN NET POSITION		1,716,647					
NET POSITION June 30, 2021, as restated	_	7,498,343					
NET POSITION, June 30, 2022	<u>\$</u>	9,214,990					

# STEM PREPARATORY ACADEMY BALANCE SHEET GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS JUNE 30, 2022

	General			Federal		
	Purpose		and State		Total	
	School		Grants		Governmental	
		Fund	Fund		Funds	
ASSETS						
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	6,199,882		-	\$	6,199,882
Accounts receivable		979,880		306,359		1,286,239
Due from other funds		306,359		-		306,359
Other current assets		46,100		-		46,100
Restricted Asset:						
TCRS Stabilization Reserve Trust		298,083		<u> </u>		298,083
Total assets	<u>\$</u>	7,830,304	<u>\$</u>	306,359	<u>\$</u>	8,136,663
LIABILITIES						
Accounts payable	\$	379,774	\$	-	\$	379,774
Accrued expenditures		356,225		-		356,225
Due to other funds		<u>-</u>		306,359		306,359
Total liabilities		735,999		306,359		1,042,358
FUND BALANCES						
Nonspendable		46,100		-		46,100
Restricted						
TCRS Stabilization Reserve Trust		298,083		-		298,083
Internal school funds		-		-		-
Unassigned		6,750,122		<u> </u>		6,750,122
Total fund balances		7,094,305				7,094,305
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources						
and fund balances	<u>\$</u>	7,830,304	\$	306,359	<u>\$</u>	8,136,663

# STEM PREPARATORY ACADEMY BALANCE SHEET GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS - CONTINUED JUNE 30, 2022

# RECONCILIATION OF GOVERNMENTAL FUND BALANCES TO NET POSITION OF GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES IN THE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION:

Total governmental fund balances in the balance sheet	\$ 7,094,305
Capital assets not reported in the balance sheet	8,453,517
Right-to-use lease assets not reported in the balance sheet	2,037,922
Pension amounts not reported in the balance sheet	
Net pension asset	2,191,029
Deferred inflows of resources for pensions	(2,486,622)
Deferred outflows of resources for pensions	1,373,953
Long-term debt	(7,023,851)
Right-to-use lease liability	(2,425,263)
Net position of governmental activities in the statement of net position	<u>\$ 9,214,990</u>

# STEM PREPARATORY ACADEMY STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022

	General Purpose School Fund	Federal and State Grants Fund	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES			
Contributions	\$ 157,672	\$ -	\$ 157,672
District funding	14,655,493	-	14,655,493
Federal and state grants	-	2,717,307	2,717,307
Other income	140,924	-	140,924
Other income - internal school funds	20,396	<del>_</del>	20,396
Total revenues	14,974,485	2,717,307	17,691,792
EXPENDITURES			
Current:			
Instructional	185,357	-	185,357
Instructional - internal school funds	20,396	-	20,396
Occupancy	1,259,937	-	1,259,937
Office	289,272		289,272
Organizational development	84,838		84,838
Other	144,144		144,144
Professional services and fees	1,122,139		1,122,139
Employee compensation	6,598,403	2,352,665	8,951,068
Staff development	166,943		166,943
Transportation	1,192,976	-	1,192,976
Debt service:			
Principal	3,927,302	-	3,927,302
Interest	386,552	-	386,552
Capital outlay	4,012,476	364,642	4,377,118
Total expenditures	19,390,735	2,717,307	22,108,042
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES:			
Issuance of debt	7,007,968	-	7,007,968
Total expenditures	7,007,968	<u> </u>	7,007,968
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	2,591,718	-	2,591,718
FUND BALANCES, June 30, 2021, as restated	4,502,587		4,502,587
FUND BALANCES, June 30, 2022	<u>\$ 7,094,305</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$ 7,094,305</u>

# STEM PREPARATORY ACADEMY STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - CONTINUED GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022

# RECONCILIATION OF NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES TO CHANGE IN NET POSITION OF GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES IN THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES:

Net change in fund balances as reported in the governmental funds statements	\$	2,591,718
Long-term debt proceeds provide current financial resources to the governmental funds, but issuance of debt increases long-term obligations for governmental activities:		
Proceeds from issuance of debt		(7,007,968)
Unavailable revenue - grants from fiscal year 2021 recognized in the funds in fiscal year 2022		(1,441,274)
Amounts reported as expenditures in the governmental funds not included as expenses in the school-wide statements:		
Capital outlays		4,377,118
Principal payments on long-term debt		3,927,302
Expenses in the school-wide statements not included in the governmental funds:		
Depreciation and amortization expense		(1,357,449)
Expenditures for pensions in the governmental funds consists of contributions made,		
whereas in the school-wide statement, negative pension expense is calculated in		
accordance with GASB No. 68.		627,200
Change in net position of governmental activities	<u>\$</u>	1,716,647

#### A. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### **Organization**

STEM Preparatory Academy ("STEM") was incorporated March 22, 2010, as a Tennessee nonprofit corporation. Pursuant to Section 6(b)(1)(a) of the Tennessee Public Charter School Act of 2002 (the Act), STEM has been approved as a public charter school. Pursuant to the Act, public charter schools are part of the state's public education program offering an alternative means within the public school system for accomplishing necessary outcomes of education. STEM entered into a Charter School Agreement with the Metropolitan Board of Public Education of Nashville and Davidson County (the "Board of Education") on November 23, 2010, to operate a chartered middle school in Nashville, Tennessee. The middle school began classes in July 2011 with a fifth grade class, culminating with the addition of an eighth grade in the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

In June 2014, the Board of Education approved STEM's application to open a new charter high school. The high school opened in the Fall of 2015 with a 9<sup>th</sup> grade class and added an additional grade each year culminating with a 12<sup>th</sup> grade in the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

#### **Basic Financial Statements**

#### Government-wide financial statements

The government-wide financial statements focus on the sustainability of STEM as an entity and the change in STEM's net position resulting from the current year's activities. In the government-wide statement of net position, amounts are reported on a full accrual, economic resources basis, which recognizes all long-term assets and receivables as well as any long-term debt and obligations. The statement of net position presents the financial condition of STEM at year-end.

STEM's net position are reported in three categories - investment in capital assets; restricted, and unrestricted net position. When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is STEM's policy to use restricted resources first, and then unrestricted resources as they are needed. STEM does not allocate indirect costs between functions.

The government-wide statement of activities reports both the gross and net cost of the organization's functions. The functions are also supported by general government revenues (general revenues are primarily made up of district BEP (Basic Education Program) funding and donations to the General Purpose School Fund). The statement of activities reduces gross expenses by related function revenues, including operating grants and contributions and capital grants and contributions. Program revenues must be directly associated with the function. The net costs by function are normally covered by general revenue.

#### A. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - Continued

#### Fund financial statements

The financial transactions of STEM are reported in individual funds in the fund financial statements. Each fund is accounted for by providing a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, fund balance, revenues and expenditures.

The emphasis in fund financial statements is on the major funds. STEM has no nonmajor funds for the year ended June 30, 2022. Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 34, Basic Financial Statements - and Management's Discussion and Analysis for State and Local Governments, sets forth minimum criteria for the determination of major funds. STEM reports the following major governmental funds:

The General Purpose School Fund is STEM's primary operating fund. It accounts for all financial resources of the organization, except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

The Federal and State Grants Special Revenue Fund is used to account for the receipt and disbursement of federal and state grants where unused balances, if any, are returned to the grantor at the close of specified project periods.

The focus of the governmental funds is upon the determination of financial resources, their balance, sources and use, rather than upon net income. STEM classifies governmental fund balances as nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned and unassigned based on the level of constraints on the fund balances. When an expenditure is incurred in which both restricted and unrestricted funds are available for use, it is STEM's policy to spend restricted funds first, then unrestricted funds. When an expenditure has been incurred for purposes in which multiple categories of unrestricted funds are available, it is STEM's policy to spend funds in the following order: committed, then assigned, and lastly unassigned funds. The classifications of fund balances are defined as follows:

*Nonspendable* - This classification consists of fund balances that cannot be spent because they are either not in spendable form, for example, noncash amounts that are not expected to be converted to cash, or the funds are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.

*Restricted* - This classification consists of fund balances with external constraints on use imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), contributors or laws or regulations of other governments or constraints imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

#### A. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - Continued

Committed - This classification consists of fund balances that can only be used for specific purposes established by formal action of STEM's Board of Directors, its highest level of decision making authority. Such commitments should include contractual obligations of fund assets. Fund balance commitments can only be removed by the same process of the same body employed to previously commit those amounts.

Assigned - This classification consists of all fund balances that are not in the General Purpose School Fund or classified as nonspendable, restricted or committed. In addition, General Purpose School Fund balances that STEM intends to use for specific purposes are also classified as assigned. STEM gives the authority to assign amounts to specific purposes to STEM's CFO and personnel under the supervision of the CFO tasked with financial recording responsibilities.

*Unassigned* - This classification consists of all fund balances in the General Purpose School Fund that are not reported as nonspendable, restricted, committed or assigned.

#### **Basis of Accounting**

STEM's financial statements have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America as prescribed by the GASB.

STEM is considered a special purpose governmental entity engaged in governmental type activities and is not a component unit of another governmental entity. Therefore, the financial statements are prepared in the same manner as general purpose governments.

STEM's basic financial statements include both government-wide (reporting the organization as a whole) and fund financial statements (reporting the organization's major funds). STEM's primary activities are all considered to be governmental activities and are classified as such in the government-wide and fund financial statements.

The government-wide financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting. Under the accrual basis, revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recognized when incurred.

The governmental funds financial statements are presented on the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues under the modified accrual basis are recognized when measurable and available and expenditures are recognized when the related liability is incurred. "Available" means collectible within the current period or within 60 days after the end of the year.

## A. <u>SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES</u> - Continued

Since the governmental funds financial statements are presented on a different basis than the government-wide financial statements, reconciliation is provided immediately following each fund statement. These reconciliations briefly explain the adjustments necessary to transform the fund financial statements into the government-wide financial statements.

#### Cash and Cash Equivalents

STEM considers deposits that can be redeemed on demand and investments that have original maturities of less than three months, when purchased, to be cash equivalents.

#### Receivables

Receivables represent amounts due from grants or funding which have been approved but not received. All receivables are reported at estimated collectible amounts. Any receivables that will not be collected within the available period are reported as unavailable revenues.

#### Capital Assets

Property and equipment are recorded at acquisition cost, if purchased, or the fair value on the date received, if donated. The cost of routine maintenance and repairs is expensed as incurred. Expenditures, which materially extend the economic lives, change capacities or improve the efficiency of the related assets are capitalized. Upon sale or retirement, the cost and related accumulated depreciation are removed from the respective accounts, and the resulting gain or loss, if any, is included in the statement of activities. Depreciation is provided using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets, ranging from two to seven years, or over the term of the lease for leasehold improvements, if less.

In the fund financial statements, capital assets used in governmental fund operations are accounted for as capital expenditures of the respective governmental fund upon acquisition.

## A. <u>SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES</u> - Continued

#### Leases

In June 2017, the GASB issued Statement No. 87, Leases. The objective of this Statement is to better meet the information needs of financial statements users by improving accounting and financial reporting for leases by governments. This statement increases the usefulness of governments' financial statements by requiring recognition of certain lease assets and liabilities for leases that previously were classified as operating leases and recognized as inflows of resources or outflows of resources based on the payment provisions of the contract. It establishes a single model for lease accounting based on the foundational principle that leases are financings of the right to use ("ROU") an underlying asset. STEM adopted GASB No. 87 effective July 1, 2021. The adoption decreased prior year net position by \$18,859 and prior year fund balance by \$14,559.

#### Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources

In addition to assets, the statement of financial position reports a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. When applicable, STEM reports deferred outflow of resources relating to pensions: contributions made subsequent to the pension measurement date, difference between expected and actual experience, difference between projected and actual investment earnings, and changes in proportion of the net pension liability.

In addition to liabilities, the statement of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, *deferred inflows of resources*, represents an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period and so will *not* be recognized as an inflow of resources (e.g., revenue) until that time. STEM also reports the following deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, when applicable: differences between expected and actual experience and differences between projected and actual investment earnings.

#### **Income Taxes**

STEM Preparatory Academy is a not-for-profit organization that is exempt from federal income taxes under the Internal Revenue Code, classified by the Internal Revenue Service as other than a private foundation and is similarly exempt from state income taxes. STEM accounts for the effect of any uncertain tax positions based on a more likely than not threshold to the recognition of the tax positions being sustained based on the technical merits of the position under examination by the applicable taxing authority. If a tax position or positions are deemed to result in uncertainties of those positions, the unrecognized tax benefit is estimated based on a cumulative probability assessment that aggregates the estimated tax liability for all uncertain tax positions. Tax positions for

#### A. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - Continued

STEM include, but are not limited to, the tax-exempt status and determination of whether income is subject to unrelated business income tax; however, STEM has determined that such tax positions do not result in an uncertainty requiring recognition.

#### **Grants**

STEM receives awards and financial assistance through state and private agencies. The expenditure of funds received under these programs generally requires compliance with terms and conditions specified in the grant agreements and is subject to audit by the grantor agencies. Any disallowed claims resulting from such audits could become a liability of the General Purpose School Fund or Federal and State Grants Fund. However, in the opinion of management, any such disallowed claims will not have a material adverse effect on the overall financial position of STEM.

## Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The carrying value of cash and cash equivalents, receivables, accounts payable and accrued liabilities approximate fair value because of the short maturity of these instruments.

#### **Interfund Balances**

Transactions which constitute reimbursement of expenditures initially made from a fund, which are applicable to another fund, are recorded as expenditures, as appropriate, in the reimbursing fund and as reductions of expenditures in the fund that is reimbursed.

Interfund balance of \$306,359 between the General Purpose School Fund and the Federal and State Grants Fund represents grant expenditures made by the General Purpose School Fund in advance of grant receipts by the Federal and State Grants Fund.

#### Commitments, Contingencies and Risk Management

STEM is exposed to various risk of loss relating to torts, theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors or commissions; illness or injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The organization carries insurance for certain risks of loss. Since inception, settled claims resulting from these risks have not exceeded commercial insurance coverage.

STEM may become subject to various claims and legal actions, which arise in the ordinary course of business. In the opinion of management, the ultimate resolution of such matters should not have a material adverse effect on STEM's financial position or results of operations, as of the date of these financial statements.

## B. DEPOSITS WITH FINANCIAL INSTITUTION

STEM's policies limit deposits to those instruments allowable by state laws. Deposits must be collateralized by federal depository insurance, by the Tennessee Bank Collateral Pool, by collateral held by STEM's agent in their name, or by the Federal Reserve Bank, acting as third party agents. As of June 30, 2022, all bank deposits were fully collateralized or insured by institutions insured by the FDIC or with banks who participate in the Tennessee Bank Collateral Pool.

#### C. CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital assets activity for governmental activities for the year was as follows:

	Balance July 1, 2021	Additions/ Transfers in	Retirements/ Transfers out	Balance June 30, 2022
Depreciable				
Office equipment	\$ 123,020	\$ 13,283	\$ -	\$ 136,303
Furniture and fixtures	482,208	3,765	Ψ -	485,973
Computer equipment	988,414	5,765	_	988,414
Maintenance equipment	16,126	_	_	16,126
Leasehold improvements	7,622,939	2,260,070	_	9,883,009
Buildings	858,029	2,100,000	_	2,958,029
Total depreciable				
capital assets	10,090,736	4,377,118	_	14,467,854
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(4,905,762)</u>	(1,108,575)		( 6,014,337)
Capital assets, net	\$ 5,184,974	\$ 3,268,543	<u>\$ -</u>	\$ 8,453,517
Right of Use Assets				
Building	\$ 1,286,932	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,286,932
Transportation	1,500,020	-	-	1,500,020
Total right of use assets	2,786,952	-	_	2,786,952
Accumulated amortization	n ( 416,268)	( 332,761)		( 749,029)
Right of use				
assets, net	<u>\$ 2,370,684</u>	<u>\$( 332,761)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 2,037,922</u>

Depreciation and amortization was charged to governmental activities as follows:

Student instruction and services	\$1,085,959
Administration	271,490
	***
	\$1,357,449

#### D. LINE-OF-CREDIT

STEM has a \$325,000 line-of-credit with a bank that expires in May 2024. The line of credit bears interest at the bank's base rate which was 4.00% at June 30, 2022. Substantially all assets of STEM collateralize the line of credit. The line of credit had no outstanding balance at June 30, 2022.

#### E. LONG-TERM DEBT

#### Notes Payable

In September 2019, STEM entered into a \$3,858,251 term loan agreement in order to pay off and refinance all outstanding balances on existing line of credits with the same lender and to provide additional funds to make certain capital upgrades. The loan is collateralized by substantially all the assets of STEM. In December 2021, the loan was refinanced and completely assumed under a pre-existing loan.

In May 2020, STEM entered into a \$200,000 debt agreement to fund the purchase of equipment. The debt is collateralized by all of the equipment purchased using the funds. The loan accrued interest at a fixed rate of 4.25% annually. Principal and interest are due in monthly installments of \$3,712 through May 2025. The outstanding principal balance at June 30, 2022 totaled \$121,635.

In May 2021, STEM entered into a \$1,800,000 line-of-credit agreement to fund the renovation of the middle school cafeteria. In December 2021, the loan was refinanced to include the remaining balance of the other loan payable, purchase of the high school building, and additional borrowings totaling approximately \$7,000,000. The debt is collateralized by all of the assets of the School. The loan accrues interest at a fixed rate of 4.85% annually. The loan is a simple interest loan, which brings the interest to current as of the date the payment is made and the balance goes to principal. Principal and interest are due in monthly installments of \$47,210 through January 2042. The outstanding principal balance at June 30, 2022 totaled \$6,902,216.

The notes payable contain clauses whereas in the event of default, the principal and outstanding accrued interest of all outstanding obligations may be declared, and shall become, immediately due and payable as provided in the agreements. Proceeds from the sale of collateral shall be used toward outstanding interest and principal.

# E. <u>LONG-TERM DEBT</u> - Continued

The following is a summary of changes in STEM's notes payable for governmental activities for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022:

	Balance <u>July 1, 2021</u>	Additions	<u>Payments</u>	Balance June 30, 2022
Note payable - bank Note payable - bank Note payable - bank	\$3,480,629 160,115 12,514	\$ - - 7,007,967	\$3,480,629 38,480 118,265	\$ - 121,635 <u>6,902,216</u>
Total	\$3,653,258	\$7,007,967	\$3,637,374	\$7,023,851

A summary of annual principal and interest requirements follows:

Year Ending June 30,	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Principal</u>	
2023	\$ 342,861	\$ 258,757	
2024	332,536	278,524	
2025	318,081	288,879	
2026	304,879	261,641	
2027	291,903	274,616	
Thereafter	2,304,140	5,661,434	
	\$3,894,400	\$7,023,851	

#### F. LEASING ARRANGEMENTS

The facilities used to provide educational services for STEM Preparatory Academy are provided under a lease arrangement with the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County. The lease is for a thirty-seven month period ending on July 31, 2024 and includes an option to extend the for two additional five-year periods. STEM anticipates executing the renewal options. The interest rate on the lease is 4.85%.

In July 2018, STEM entered into a lease agreement with a bank for the use of 14 school buses. The lease term is for 7 years commencing July 10, 2018. The lease accrues interest at a fixed rate of 5%. The lease requires STEM to pay rent in monthly installments of \$17,199 through June 2025. The agreement also includes an option to purchase the equipment for 5% of the original cost at the expiration of the initial term. In April 2019, STEM entered into a lease agreement with a bank for the use of 3 school buses. The lease term is for 7 years commencing April 19, 2019. The lease accrues interest at a fixed rate of 5%. The lease requires STEM to pay rent in monthly installments of \$4,002 through March 2026. The agreement also includes an option to purchase the equipment for 5% of the original cost at the expiration of the initial term.

The components of lease expense for the year ended June 30, 2022 is as follows:

			Year Er June 30,	_
Lease Expense Amortization expense by cla Building	ss of underlying assets		\$182,7	759
Transportation			_150,0	<u>002</u>
Total amortization expense Interest on lease liabilities			332,7 212,7	
Total			<u>\$545,</u>	<u>481</u>
Beginning <u>of Year</u> <u>Addi</u>	Modifications and tions Remeasurements	Subtractions	End <u>of Year</u>	Amounts Due Within One Year
Lease Liabilities <u>\$2,715,189</u> <u>\$</u>	<u> </u>	<u>\$( 289,926</u> )	\$ 2,425,263	\$307,953

#### F. LEASING ARRANGEMENTS - Continued

Annual requirements to amortize long-term obligations and related interest are as follows:

Year Ending June 30,	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
2023 2024 2025 2026 2027	\$ 307,953 326,955 346,985 116,896 119,724	\$111,830 96,135 79,479 65,817 59,277	\$ 419,783 423,090 426,464 232,713 179,001
2028-2032 2033-2037	754,011 402,739 \$2,425,263	196,148 21,624 \$630,310	950,158 424,363 \$3,055,572

## G. <u>FUND BALANCES</u>

The General Purpose School Fund includes fund balance amounts presented as nonspendable as they are not in spendable form.

The General Purpose School Fund includes fund balance amounts that are restricted for the Net Pension Asset, TCRS Stabilization Reserve Trust, and Internal School Funds.

#### H. <u>CONCENTRATIONS</u>

STEM received 90% of its funding for operations through the Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools ("MNPS") based on the State of Tennessee's Basic Education Program ("BEP"). BEP funding is designated to schools based on student attendance. Gross BEP funding for the year ended June 30, 2022, was \$14,655,493. Outside fundraising for capital needs is on-going since the charter school agreement with MNPS does not include an allocation for capital expenditures.

#### I. PENSION PLANS

STEM, similar to MNPS and all Tennessee Public Charter Schools in the MNPS System, participates in the following three defined benefit pension plans (collectively the "Pension Plans"):

#### Certificated Employees

Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System ("TCRS"):

Teachers Legacy Pension Plan

Teachers Retirement Plan (collectively the "TCRS Plans")

#### Non-Certificated Employees

Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, Tennessee (the "Metropolitan Government"):

Metro Pension Plan of the Metropolitan Employees Benefit Trust (the "Metro 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 Pension Plans and additions to/deductions from the plans' fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the TCRS and the Metropolitan Government. For this purpose, benefits (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms of the Pension Plans. Investments are reported at fair value.

- (I.) TCRS Plans
- (A) General Information TCRS Plans

#### Description of the TCRS Plans

Teachers with membership in the TCRS before July 1, 2014, are provided with pensions through the Teacher Legacy Pension Plan, a cost sharing multiple-employer pension plan administered by the TCRS. The Teacher Legacy Pension Plan closed to new membership on June 30, 2014, but will continue providing benefits to existing members and retirees.

## I. <u>PENSION PLANS</u> - Continued

Beginning July 1, 2014, the Teacher Retirement Plan became effective for teachers employed by Local Education Agencies (LEAs) after June 30, 2014.

The Teacher Retirement Plan is a separate cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit plan. The TCRS was created by state statute under Tennessee Code Annotated Title 8, Chapters 34-37. The TCRS Board of Trustees is responsible for the proper operation and administration of all employer pension plans in the TCRS. The Tennessee Treasury Department, an agency in the legislative branch of state government, administers the plans of the TCRS. The TCRS issues a publicly available financial report that can be obtained at <a href="https://treasury.tn.gov/Retirement/Boards-and-Governance/Reporting-and-Investment-Policies">https://treasury.tn.gov/Retirement/Boards-and-Governance/Reporting-and-Investment-Policies</a>.

#### Benefits Provided

Tennessee Code Annotated Title 8, Chapters 34-37 establishes the benefit terms and can be amended only by the Tennessee General Assembly.

## Teachers Legacy Pension Plan

Members of the Teacher Legacy Pension Plan are eligible to retire with an unreduced benefit at age 60 with 5 years of service credit or after 30 years of service credit regardless of age. Benefits are determined by a formula using the member's highest five consecutive year average compensation and the member's years of service credit. A reduced early retirement benefit is available at age 55 and vested. Members are vested with five years of service credit. Service related disability benefits are provided regardless of length of service. Five years of service is required for non-service related disability eligibility. The service related and non-service related disability benefits are determined in the same manner as a service retirement benefit but are reduced 10 percent and include projected service credits. A variety of death benefits are available under various eligibility criteria. Member and beneficiary annuitants are entitled to automatic cost of living adjustments (COLAs) after retirement. A COLA is granted each July for annuitants retired prior to the 2nd of July of the previous year. The COLA is based on the change in the consumer price index (CPI) during the prior calendar year, capped at 3 percent, and applied to the current benefit. No COLA is granted if the change in the CPI is less than one-half percent. A one percent COLA is granted if the CPI change is between one-half percent and one percent. A member who leaves employment may withdraw their employee contributions, plus any accumulated interest.

#### I. PENSION PLANS - Continued

#### Teachers Retirement Plan

Members of the Teacher Retirement Plan are eligible to retire with an unreduced benefit at age 65 with 5 years of service credit or pursuant to the rule of 90 in which the member's age and service credit total 90. Benefits are determined by a formula using the member's highest five consecutive year average compensation and the member's years of service credit. A reduced early retirement benefit is available at age 60 and vested pursuant to the rule of 80. Members are vested with five years of service credit. Service related disability benefits are provided regardless of length of service. Five years of service is required for non-service related disability eligibility. The service related and non-service related disability benefits are determined in the same manner as a service retirement benefit but are reduced 10 percent and include projected service credits. A variety of death benefits are available under various eligibility criteria. Member and beneficiary annuitants are entitled to automatic cost of living adjustments (COLAs) after retirement. A COLA is granted each July for annuitants retired prior to the July 2 of the previous year.

The COLA is based on the change in the consumer price index (CPI) during the prior calendar year, capped at 3 percent, and applied to the current benefit. No COLA is granted if the change in the CPI is less than one-half percent. A one percent COLA is granted if the CPI change is between one-half percent and one percent. A member who leaves employment may withdraw their employee contributions, plus any accumulated interest. Under the Teachers Legacy Pension Plan and Teachers Retirement Plan, benefit terms and conditions, including COLA, can be adjusted on a prospective basis. Moreover, there are defined cost controls and unfunded liability controls that provide for the adjustment of benefit terms and conditions on an automatic basis.

#### **Contributions**

Contributions for teachers are established in the statutes governing the TCRS and may only be changed by the Tennessee General Assembly (or by automatic cost controls set out in law for the Teachers Retirement Plan). Teachers contribute 5 percent of salary. The Local Education Agencies (LEAs) make employer contributions at the rate set by the Board of Trustees as determined by an actuarial valuation. By law, employer contributions are required to be paid. The TCRS may intercept the state shared taxes of the sponsoring governmental entity of the LEA if the required employer contributions are not remitted.

#### I. PENSION PLANS - Continued

Teachers Legacy Pension Plan

Employer contributions by STEM for the year ended June 30, 2022, to the Teacher Legacy Pension Plan were \$124,528 which is 10.30 percent of covered payroll. The employer rate, when combined with member contributions, is expected to finance the costs of benefits earned by members during the year, the cost of administration, as well as an amortized portion of any unfunded liability.

#### Teachers Retirement Plan

Per the statutory provisions governing the TCRS, the employer contribution rate cannot be less than 4 percent, except for in years when the maximum funded level, as established by the TCRS Board of Trustees, is reached. Employer contributions for the year ended June 30, 2022 to the Teacher Retirement Plan were \$68,020, which is 2.01 percent of covered payroll. The employer rate, when combined with member contributions, is expected to finance the costs of benefits earned by members during the year, the cost of administration, as well as an amortized portion of any unfunded liability.

### (B) Pension Liabilities (Assets) - TCRS Plans

#### Pension Liabilities (Assets)

Teachers Legacy Pension Plan

At June 30, 2022, STEM reported an asset of (\$1,491,312) for its proportionate share of the net pension asset. The net pension liability (asset) was measured as of June 30, 2021, and the total pension liability (asset) used to calculate the net pension (asset) was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. STEM's proportion of the net pension liability (asset) was based on STEM's contributions to the pension plan relative to the contributions of all participating LEA's. At the measurement date of June 30, 2021, STEM's proportion was 0.034575 percent. The proportion measured as of June 30, 2020 was 0.033549 percent.

#### Teachers Retirement Plan

At June 30, 2022, STEM reported an asset of (\$275,646) for its proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset). The net pension liability (asset) was measured as of June 30, 2021, and the total pension liability (asset) used to calculate the net pension asset was determined by an actuarial value as of that date. STEM's proportion of the net pension liability (asset) was based on the STEM's share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the contributions of all participating LEAs. At the measurement date of June 30, 2021, STEM's proportion was 0.254475 percent. The proportion measured as of June 30, 2020 as 0.266257 percent.

#### I. PENSION PLANS - Continued

#### **Actuarial Assumptions**

Teachers Legacy Pension Plan and Teachers Retirement Plan

The total pension liability (asset) in the June 30, 2021, actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Inflation 2.25 percent

Salary increases Graded salary ranges from 8.72 to 3.44 percent based

on age, including inflation, averaging 4.00 percent

Investment rate of return 6.75 percent, net of pension plan investment

expenses, including inflation

Cost-of living adjustment 2.125 percent

Mortality rates are customized based on actuarial experience including an adjustment for some anticipated future improvement.

The actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2021, actuarial valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience study performed for the period July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2020. The demographic assumptions were adjusted to more closely reflect actual and expected future experience.

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was established by the TCRS Board of Trustees in conjunction with the June 30, 2020 actuarial experience study. A blend of future capital market projections and historical market returns were used in a building-block method in which a best-estimate of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) is developed for each major asset class. These best estimates 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 of 2.25 percent. The best estimates of geometric real rates of return and the TCRS investment policy target asset allocation for each major asset class are summarized in the following table:

#### I. PENSION PLANS - Continued

Asset Class	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return	Target Allocation
U.S. equity	4.48%	31%
Developed market international equity	5.37%	14%
Emerging market international equity	6.09%	4%
Private equity and strategic lending	6.57%	20%
U.S. fixed income	1.20%	20%
Real estate	4.38%	10%
Short-term securities	0.00%	<u> </u>
		100%

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was established by the TCRS Board of Trustees as 6.75 percent based on a blending of the factors described above.

#### **Discount Rate**

Teachers Legacy Pension Plan and Teachers Retirement Plan

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 6.75 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that employee contributions will be made at the current rate and that contributions from all the LEAs will be made at the actuarially determined contribution rate pursuant to an actuarial valuation in accordance with the funding policy of the TCRS Board of Trustees and as required to be paid by state statute. Based on those assumptions, the pension plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make projected future benefit payments of current active and inactive 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.

#### I. Metro Plan

(A) General Information - Metro Plan

#### I. PENSION PLANS - Continued

#### Plan Description

The Metro Plan is established under the authority of the Metropolitan Charter, Article XIII. Approval of the Metropolitan Council is required to establish and amend benefit provisions. Article XIII also required that the pension plan be actuarially sound. Administrative costs of the plan are financed through plan assets. The plan is managed by the Metropolitan Employee Benefit Board, an independent board, created by the Metropolitan Charter. The Board is composed of ten members as follows: Finance Director, Human Resources Director, three members appointed by the Mayor, and five members selected by the employees and retirees of the Metropolitan Government. Additional information about the Metro Plan can be found in the publicly available comprehensive annual financial report of the Metropolitan Government. That report may be obtained at www.nashville.gov.

#### Benefits Provided

As of July 1, 1995, Division B of the Metro Plan was established for all non-certificated employees of the Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools, including charter schools, and all other Metro Government employees. Employees with an effective hire date of July 1, 1995, or later are only eligible to participate in Division B of the Metro Plan.

Normal retirement for the School's employees participating in the Metro Plan occurs at the unreduced retirement age which is the earlier of (a) the date when the employee's age plus the completed years of credited service equals 85, but not before age 60; or (b) the date when the employee reaches age 65 and completes 5 years of credited employee service. The lifetime monthly benefit is calculated as 1/12 of the sum of 1.75 percent of average earnings based upon the previous 60 consecutive months of credit service which produce the highest earnings. Benefits fully vest on completing 5 years of service for employees employed on or between October 1, 2001, and December 31, 2012, who vest before leaving employment. Benefits fully vest on completing 10 years of service for employees and non-vested employees hired or rehired on or after January 1, 2013. An early retirement option, with reduced benefits, is available for retired employees if the termination occurs prior to the eligibility under normal retirement but after age 50 and after the completion of 10 years of credited employee service.

All assets of the Metropolitan Employees' Benefit Trust Fund may legally be used to pay benefit to any plan members or beneficiaries.

#### I. <u>PENSION PLANS</u> - Continued

#### Contributions

The funding policy is to provide for periodic contributions at actuarially determined rates that are designed to accumulate sufficient assets to pay benefits when due. All funding is provided under an actuarially recommended employee contribution rate of 12.881 percent for the non-certificate employees of the Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools, including charter schools, and all other Metropolitan Government Employees. Contributions to the plan for the year ended June 30, 2022 were \$232,805.

#### (B) Pension Liabilities - Metro Plan

#### Pension Liability (Asset)

STEM reported an asset of \$(424,071) for its proportionate share of the net pension asset. The net pension asset was measured as of June 30, 2022, and the total pension asset used to calculate the net pension asset was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2021. STEM's proportion of the net pension liability was based on STEM's employee contributions to the pension plan during the year ended June 30, 2022, relative to all contributions for 2022. At the June 30, 2022 measurement date, STEM's proportionate share was 0.250995 percent. At the June 30, 2021 measurement date, STEM's proportionate share was 0.115688 percent.

#### **Actuarial Assumptions**

The total pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2021. Actuarial assumptions are summarized below:

Inflation 2.5 percent Salary increases 4.0 percent

Investment rate of return 7.00 percent, net of pension plan investment

expenses, including inflation

Cost-of living adjustment 1.25 percent

Mortality rates were based on the 115% RP-2014 Blue Collar Table, as determined by the period actuarial experience study. The actuarial assumptions used in the July 1, 2017 valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period 2012 to 2017.

#### I. PENSION PLANS - Continued

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was established in conjunction with the most recent actuarial experience study completed February 20, 2018, by considering the following three techniques: (1) the 20-year historical return of the Metro Open Plan at June 30, 2017, (2) the historical market returns of asset classes from 1926 to 2017, and (3) capital market projections that were utilized as a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rate of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. The blended capital market projection established the long-timer expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rate of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding inflation of 2.5 percent. The target allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class are summarized in the following table:

Asset Class	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return	Target Allocation
U.S. equity	5.1%	24%
International equity	5.3%	16%
Private equity	7.9%	10%
Equity hedge	7.9%	10%
Real estate	4.9%	10%
Core plus fixed income	2.3%	20%
Fixed income alternatives	2.7%	10%

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.00 percent. Based on the Metro Plan assumptions and funding policy, the fiduciary net position for the plan was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

III. Pension Liabilities (Assets), Pension Expense and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions - Pension Plans

#### Pension Liabilities (Assets)

STEM reports the following net pension liability (asset) as of June 30, 2022:

TCRS Legacy Plan	\$(1,491,312)
TCRS Retirement Plan	( 275,646)
Metro Plan	( 424,071)
Net pension (asset)	\$(2,191,029)

#### I. PENSION PLANS - Continued

Sensitivity of the proportionate share of net pension liability (asset) to changes in the discount rate

The following presents STEM's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) calculated using the discount rate of 6.75 percent for the TCRS Plans and 7.00 percent for the Metro Plan, as well as what the School's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (5.75 percent for the TCRS Plans and 6.00 percent for the Metro Plan) or 1-percentage-point higher (7.75 percent for the TCRS Plans and 8.00 for the Metro Plan) than the current rate:

		Current	
	1% Decrease (5.75)%	Discount Rate (6.75)%	1% Increase (7.75)%
Proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset):	(3.73)/0	(0.73)/0	(7.73)70
TCRS Legacy Plan	\$(265,403)	\$(1,491,312)	\$(2,511,512)
TCRS Retirement Plan	94,761	( 275,646)	( 548,843)
	1% Decrease (6.00%)	Current Discount Rate (7.00%)	1% Increase (8.00%)
Metro Plan	1,433,778	( 424,071)	(1,955,070)
Total	<u>\$ 1,263,136</u>	<u>\$(2,191,029)</u>	<u>\$(5,015,425)</u>

#### Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position

Detailed information about the Pension Plans' respective fiduciary net position is available in a separately issued TCRS and Metropolitan Government financial reports.

#### Pension Expense (Negative Pension Expense)

For the year ended June 30, 2022, STEM recognized pension expense (negative pension expense) as follows:

TCRS Legacy Plan	\$(352,103)
TCRS Retirement Plan	( 34,164)
Metro Plan	_(240,933)
Negative pension expense	\$(627,20 <u>0</u> )

#### I. <u>PENSION PLANS</u> - Continued

#### <u>Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources</u>

As of June 30, 2022, STEM reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	Deferred	Deferred					
	Outflows	Inflows					
	of Resource	of Resources					
Differences between expected and							
actual experience							
TCRS Legacy Plan	\$ 5,012	\$ 124,380					
TCRS Retirement Plan	4,795	50,438					
Metro Plan	199,207	46,247					
Changes in assumptions							
TCRS Legacy Plan	398,454	-					
TCRS Retirement Plan	99,425	-					
Metro Plan	316,337	-					
Net difference between projected							
and actual earnings on pension plan							
investments							
TCRS Legacy Plan	-	1,189,290					
TCRS Retirement Plan	-	158,673					
Metro Plan	-	849,640					
Changes in proportion of Net Pension							
Liability (Asset)							
TCRS Legacy Plan	10,152	62,737					
TCRS Retirement Plan	29,263	3,177					
Metro Plan	118,760	2,040					
Contributions subsequent to the							
measurement date of June 30, 2021							
TCRS Legacy Plan	124,528						
TCRS Retirement Plan	68,020	N/A					
Totals	<u>\$1,373,953</u>	\$2,486,622					

#### I. <u>PENSION PLANS</u> - Continued

STEM's employer contributions of \$192,548 reported as pension related deferred outflows of resources, subsequent to the measurement date, will be recognized as a decrease in net pension liability in the year ended June 30, 2022. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Year Ending June 30,	TCRS Legacy Plan	TCRS Retirement Plan	Metro Plan	Total
		110011 01110110 1 10011	1,10010 11011	
2023	\$(223,144)	\$(32,246)	\$108,109	\$(147,281)
2024	(210,578)	(31,378)	115,466	(126,490)
2025	(169,750)	(31,131)	114,756	( 86,125)
2026	(320,957)	(35,121)	89,645	(266,433)
2027	-	7,201	65,528	72,729
Thereafter	-	43,870	94,232	138,101

In the table above, positive amounts will increase pension expense, while negative amounts will decrease pension expense.

#### Payable to the Pension Plans

At June 30, 2022, STEM reported payables for the outstanding amount of contributions to the Metro pension plan totaling \$22,329 at June 30, 2022.

#### **Defined Contribution Plan**

The TCRS Retirement Plan has a defined contribution component to the plan. Under the terms of the Plan for the defined contribution component, employees contribute 2% of their salaries to the plan, but are allowed an opt out feature. STEM is required to contribute 5% of annual salaries, to an individual employee account. For the year ended June 30, 2022, STEM recognized pension expense of \$174,615 related to the defined contribution component of the plan. Employees are immediately vested in the plan.

#### J. RESTRICTED ASSETS - TCRS STABILIZATION RESERVE TRUST

#### **Legal Provisions**

STEM is a member of the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System ("TCRS") Stabilization Reserve Trust. The Organization has placed funds into the irrevocable trust as authorized by statute under Tennessee Code Annotated ("TCA"), Title 8, Chapters 34-37. The TCRS Board of Trustees is responsible for the proper operation and administration of the trust. Funds of trust members are held and invested in the name of the trust for the benefit of each member. Each member's funds are restricted for the payment of retirement benefits of that member's employees. Trust funds are not subject to the claims of general creditors of the Organization.

The Trust is authorized to make investments as directed by the TCRS Board of Trustees. STEM may not impose any restrictions on investments placed by the trust on their behalf.

#### **Investment Balances**

Assets of the TCRS, including the Stabilization Reserve Trust, are invested in the Tennessee Retiree Group Trust ("TRGT"). The TRGT is not registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") as an investment company. The State of Tennessee has not obtained a credit quality rating for the TRGT from a nationally recognized credit ratings agency. The fair value of investment positions in the TRGT is determined daily based on the fair value of the pool's underlying portfolio. Furthermore, TCRS had not obtained or provided any legally binding guarantees to support the value of participant shares during the fiscal year. There are no restrictions on the sale or redemption of shares.

Investments are reported at fair value. Securities traded on a national exchange are valued at the last reported sales price. Investment income consists of realized and unrealized appreciation (depreciation) in the fair value of the investments and interest and dividend income. Interest is recognized when earned. Securities and securities transactions are recorded in the financial statements on a trade-date basis. The fair value of assets of the TRGT held at June 30, 2022, represents the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants. Assets held are categorized for fair value measurement within the fair value hierarchy established by GAAP. The hierarchy is based on the valuation inputs used to measure the fair value of the asset and give the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1 measurements) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3 measurements).

• Level 1 - Unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that can be accessed at the measurement date.

#### J. RESTRICTED ASSETS - TCRS STABILIZATION RESERVE TRUST - Continued

- Level 2 Quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets; quoted
  prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active;
  assets or liabilities that have a bid-ask spread price in an inactive dealer market,
  brokered market and principal-to-principal market; and Level 1 assets or
  liabilities that are adjusted.
- Level 3 Valuations derived from valuation techniques in which significant inputs are unobservable.

Investments where fair value is measured using the Net Asset Value ("NAV") per share have no readily determinable fair value and have been determined to be calculated consistent with FASB principles for investment companies.

Where inputs used in the measurement of fair value fall into different levels of the hierarchy, fair value of the instrument in its entirety is categorized based on the lowest level input that is significant to the valuation. This assessment requires professional judgement and as such management of the TRGT developed a fair value committee that worked in conjunction with the plan's custodian and investment professionals to make these valuations. All assets held were valued individually and aggregated into classes to be represented in the table on the next page.

Short-term securities generally include investments in money market-type securities reported at cost plus accrued interest.

Equity and equity derivative securities classified in Level 1 are valued using last reported sales prices quoted in active markets that can be accessed at the measurement date. Equity and equity derivative securities classified in Level 2 are securities whose values are derived daily from associated traded securities. Equity securities classified in Level 3 are valued with last trade data having limited trading volume.

U.S. Treasury Bills, Bonds, Notes, and Futures classified in Level 1 are valued using last reported sales prices quoted in active markets that can be accessed at the measurement date. Debt and debt derivative securities classified in Level 2 are valued using a bid-ask spread price from multiple independent brokers, dealers, or market principals, which are known to be actively involved in the market. Level 3 debt securities are valued using proprietary information, a single pricing source, or other unobservable inputs related to similar assets or liabilities.

#### J. <u>RESTRICTED ASSETS - TCRS STABILIZATION RESERVE TRUST</u> - Continued

Investments in private mutual funds, traditional private equity funds, strategic lending funds and real estate funds that report using GAAP, the fair value, as well as the unfunded commitments, were determined using the prior quarter's NAV, as reported by the fund managers, plus the current cash flows. These assets were then categorized by investment strategy. In instances where the fund investment reported using non-GAAP standards, the investment was valued using the same method, but was classified in Level 3.

At June 30, 2022, STEM assets balance was \$298,083 and had the following investments held by the trust on its behalf:

	Weighted Average Maturity		
<u>Investment</u>	(days)	<u>Maturities</u>	Fair Value
Investments at Fair Value:			
U.S. Equity	N/A	N/A	\$ 92,406
Developed Market International Equity	N/A	N/A	41,732
Emerging Market International Equity	N/A	N/A	11,923
U.S. Fixed Income	N/A	N/A	59,617
Real Estate	N/A	N/A	29,808
Short-term Securities	N/A	N/A	2,981
NAV-Private Equity and Strategic Lending	N/A	N/A	<u>59,616</u>
Total			<u>\$298,083</u>

Real estate investments classified in Level 3 are valued using the last valuations provided by external investment advisors or independent external appraisers. Generally, all direct real estate investments are appraised by a qualified independent appraiser(s) with the professional designation of Member of the Appraisal Institute ("MAI"), or its equivalent, every three (3) years beginning from the acquisition date of the property. The appraisals are performed using generally accepted valuation approaches applicable to the property type.

#### J. RESTRICTED ASSETS - TCRS STABILIZATION RESERVE TRUST - Continued

		Fair Value Measurements Using												
		Quoted Price												
		in Active Significant												
		Markets for												
		Identical	Observable	Unobservable										
Investment by	Fair Value	Assets	Inputs	Inputs										
Fair Value Level	June 30, 2022	(Level 1)	(Level 2)	(Level 3)	NAV									
U.S. Equity	\$ 92,406	\$ 92,406	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -									
Developed Market														
International Equity	41,732	41,732	-	-	-									
Emerging Market														
International Equity	11,923	11,923	-	-	-									
U.S. Fixed Income	59,617	-	59,617	-	-									
Real Estate	29,808	-	-	29,808	-									
Short-term Securities	2,981	-	2,981	-	-									
Private Equity and Strategic														
Lending	59,616				59,616									
Total	<u>\$298,083</u>	<u>\$146,061</u>	<u>\$62,598</u>	<u>\$29,808</u>	<u>\$59,616</u>									

#### Risks and Uncertainties

The trust's investments include various types of investment funds, which in turn invest in any combination of stock, bonds, and other investments exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, credit, and market risk. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect the amounts reported for trust investments.

#### Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. STEM does not have the ability to limit trust investment maturities as a means of managing its exposure to fair value losses arising from increasing interest rates.

#### Credit Risk

Credit risk is the risk that an issuer or other counterparty to an investment will not fulfill its obligations. STEM does not have the ability to limit the credit ratings of individual investments made by the trust.

#### J. <u>RESTRICTED ASSETS - TCRS STABILIZATION RESERVE TRUST</u> - Continued

#### Concentration of Credit Risk

Concentration of credit risk is the risk of loss attributed to the magnitude of the county's investment in a single issuer. STEM places no limit on the amount the county may invest in one issuer.

#### Custodial Credit Risk

Custodial credit risk for investments is the risk that, in the event of a failure of the counterparty to a transaction, the county will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. Pursuant to the trust agreement, investments are held in the name of the trust for the benefit of the Organization to pay retirement benefits of STEM's employees.

For further information concerning the Organization's investments with the TCRS Stabilization Reserve Trust, audited financial statements of the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System may be obtained at

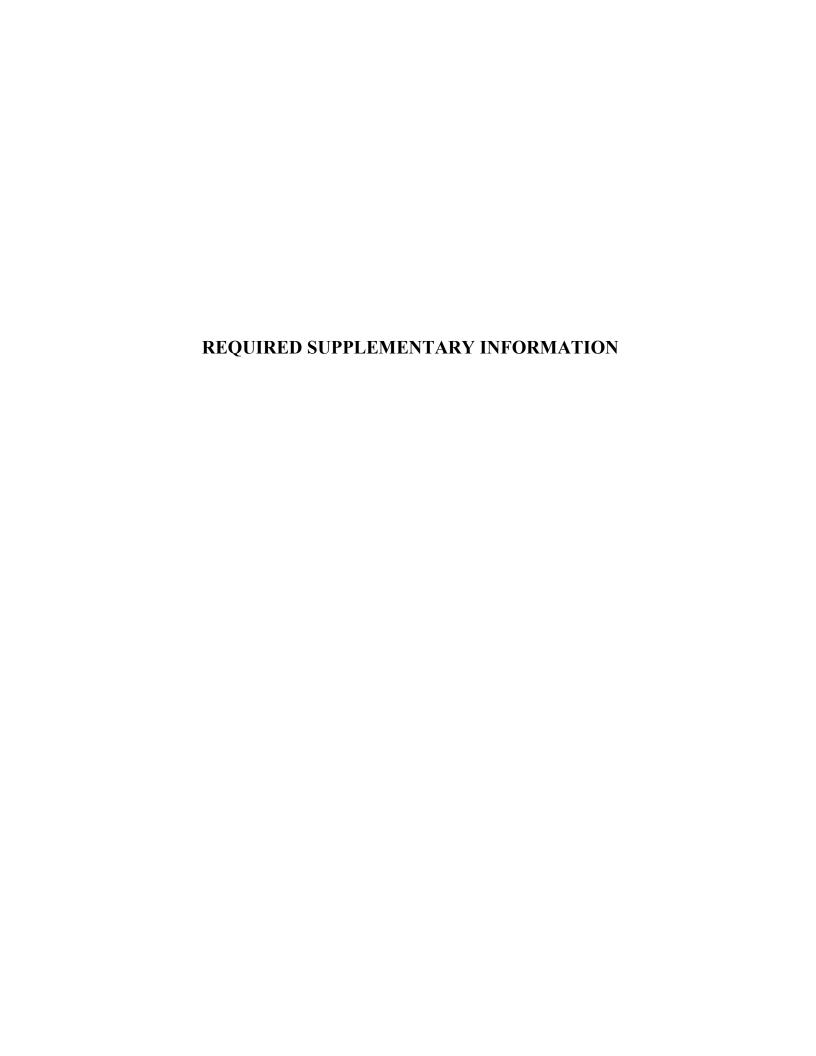
https://comptroller.tn.gov/content/dam/cot/sa/advanced-search/disclaimer/2020/ag19091.pdf.

#### K. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

In March 2018, STEM entered into an agreement for the operation and support services of the student transportation system. The vendor is an independent contractor that has agreed to use STEM's facilities and equipment (See Note F). The agreement commenced July 1, 2018 for 7 years ending June 30, 2025 with an option to renew for an additional 5-year period at the end of the initial term. Annual costs throughout the life of the agreement are estimated at \$879,230 per year plus the costs of sales taxes, registration, fuel, maintenance, and insurance. Total expenses for the year ended June 30, 2022 were \$1,192,976.

#### L. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

STEM has evaluated subsequent events through March 24, 2023, the date at which the financial statements were available for issuance, noting none.



# STEM PREPARATORY ACADEMY REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION SCHEDULE OF THE PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF NET PENSION LIABILITY (ASSET) FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30,

Teachers Legacy Plan of TCRS		2015		2016	_	2017		2018		2019	_	2020		2021		2022
Measurement date	Ju	June 30, 2014		ne 30, 2015	J	une 30, 2016	Jı	June 30, 2017		ine 30, 2018	Ju	ne 30, 2019	Ju	ne 30, 2020	Ju	ne 30, 2021
Proportion of the net pension liability (asset)		0.02720%		0.02327%		0.01994%		0.02465%		0.02272%		0.02979%		0.033550%		0.034580%
Proportionate share of the of the net pension liability (asset)	\$	(4,424)	\$	9,532	\$	124,632	\$	(8,066)	\$	(79,955)	\$	(306,272)	\$	(255,837)	\$	(1,491,312)
Covered payroll	\$	1,076,178	\$	871,074	\$	719,896	\$	871,465	\$	795,633	\$	998,827	\$	1,162,871	\$	1,134,818
Proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) as a percentage of its covered payroll		-0.411%		1.094%		17.313%		-0.926%		-10.049%		-30.663%		-22.000%		-131.414%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability		100.08%		99.81%		97.14%		100.14%		101.49%		104.28%		103.09%		116.13%
Teachers Retirement Plan of TCRS		2015 (1)		2016		2017	_	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022
Measurement date			Ju	ne 30, 2015	J	une 30, 2016	Jι	ane 30, 2017	Jı	ine 30, 2018	Ju	ne 30, 2019	Ju	ne 30, 2020	Ju	ne 30, 2021
Proportion of the net pension liability (asset)				0.29806%		0.28663%		0.32127%		0.32413%		0.02965%		0.02663%		0.25448%
Proportionate share of the of the net pension liability (asset)			\$	(11,991)	\$	(29,839)	\$	(84,760)	\$	(147,000)	\$	(167,348)	\$	(151,403)	\$	(275,646)
Covered payroll			\$	619,296	\$	1,261,173	\$	2,223,741	\$	2,832,489	\$	3,137,187	\$	3,359,956	\$	3,532,066
Proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) as a percentage of its covered payroll				-1.94%		-2.37%		-3.81%		-5.19%		-5.33%		-4.51%		-7.80%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability				127.46%		121.88%		126.81%		126.97%		123.07%		116.52%		121.53%

The amounts presented in this schedule were determined as of the measurement date.

This is a 10-year schedule. However, the information in this schedule is not required to be presented retroactively. Years will be added to this schedule in future fiscal years until 10 years of information is available.

(1) Information is not applicable for 2015 in this schedule for the Teachers Retirement Plan of TCRS as the measurement date was June 30, 2014, and the Teachers Retirement Plan did not commence until July 1, 2014.

See independent auditor's report.

## STEM PREPARATORY ACADEMY REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION SCHEDULE OF THE PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF NET PENSION LIABILITY (ASSET) FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30,

Metro Plan	2015	2	2016		2017	2018			2019		2020		2021		2022
Measurement date	June 30, 2015	June 3	June 30, 2016		June 30, 2017		June 30, 2018		June 30, 2019	June 30, 2020			June 30, 2021	Jı	une 30, 2022
Proportion of the net pension liability (asset)	0.07440	%	0.08263%		0.10093%		0.09112%		0.11753%		0.10865%		0.11569%		0.250995%
Proportionate share of the of the net pension liability (asset)	\$ 51,29	7 \$	182,885	\$	41,317	\$	82,468	\$	144,007	\$	235,546	\$	(662,010)	\$	(424,071)
Covered payroll	\$ 389,09	2 \$	456,441	\$	604,173	\$	565,203	\$	735,697	\$	692,318	\$	810,138	\$	1,807,352
Proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) as a percentage of its covered payroll	13.184	%	40.068%		6.839%		14.591%		19.574%		34.023%		-81.716%		-23.464%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	97.5	%	92.39%		98.64%		97.45%		96.37%		93.79%		115.75%		104.35%

The amounts presented in this schedule were determined as of the measurement date.

This is a 10-year schedule. However, the information in this schedule is not required to be presented retroactively. Years will be added to this schedule in future fiscal years until 10 years of information is available.

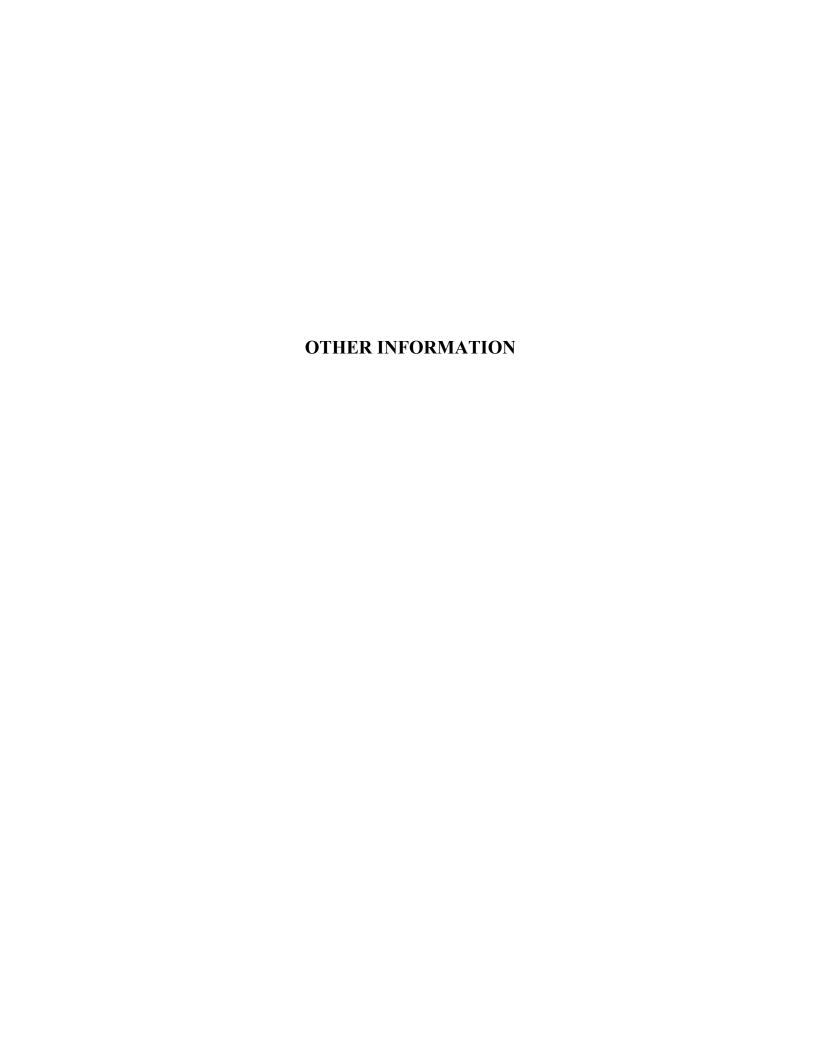
## STEM PREPARATORY ACADEMY REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION SCHEDULE OF EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30,

Teachers Legacy Pension Plan of TCRS	_	2014		2015		2016	_	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022
Actuarial Determined Contributions (ADC)	\$	94,891	\$	78,745	\$	64,966	\$	78,781	\$	72,243	\$	104,477	\$	118,695	\$	116,546	\$	124,528
Contributions in relation to the actuarially determined contribution	_	94,891	_	78,745	_	64,966	_	78,781	_	72,243	_	104,477	_	118,695	_	116,546	_	124,528
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$</u>		<u>\$</u>	<del>-</del>	\$		<u>\$</u>		\$	<del></del>	<u>s</u>		\$	<del>-</del>	<u>\$</u>		\$	
Covered payroll	\$	1,076,178	\$	871,074	\$	719,896	\$	871,465	\$	795,633	\$	998,824	\$	1,162,537	\$	1,134,820	\$	1,209,010
Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll		8.88%		9.04%		9.04%		9.04%		9.08%		10.46%		10.21%		10.27%		10.30%
Teachers Retirement Plan of TCRS		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	_	2020 *	_	2021 *		2022 *
Actuarial Determined Contributions (ADC)		N/A	\$	15,482	\$	31,570	\$	84,344	\$	46,191	\$	60,861	\$	68,207	\$	74,187	\$	68,020
Contributions in relation to the actuarially determined contribution				24,771	_	50,547		84,344	_	113,300		60,861	_	68,207	_	74,187	_	68,020
Contribution deficiency (excess)			<u>\$</u>	(9,289)	<u>\$</u>	(18,977)	<u>\$</u>		\$	(67,109)	<u>s</u>		\$		<u>\$</u>		<u>\$</u>	<u>-</u>
Covered payroll			\$	619,296	\$	1,263,675	\$	2,223,741	\$	2,832,489	\$	3,137,165	\$	3,359,956	\$	3,532,714	\$	3,384,080
Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll				4.00%		4.00%		3.79%		4.00%		1.94%		2.03%		2.10%		2.01%
Metro Plan		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	_	2019		2020	_	2021		2022
Actuarial Determined Contributions (ADC)	\$	41,059	\$	69,986	\$	70,794	\$	74,555	\$	69,746	\$	90,785	\$	85,432	\$	99,971	\$	232,805
Contributions in relation to the actuarially determined contribution		41,059		69,986	_	70,794	_	74,555	_	69,746	_	90,785	_	85,432	_	99,971	_	232,805
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$</u>		\$		\$		<u>\$</u>		\$		<u>\$</u>		\$		<u>\$</u>		\$	=
Covered payroll	\$	239,873	\$	389,092	\$	456,441	\$	604,173	\$	565,203	\$	735,697	\$	692,318	\$	810,138	\$	1,807,352
Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll		17.117%		17.987%		15.510%		12.340%		12.340%		12.340%		12.340%		12.340%		12.881%

<sup>\*</sup> In fiscal year 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022, STEM placed the actuarially determined contribution rate (1.94%, 2.03%, 2.10%, and 2.01%, respectively) of covered payroll into the Teacher's Retirement Plan of TCRS and placed 2.06%, 1.97%, 1.90% and 1.99%, respectively, of covered payroll into the TCRS Stabilization Reserve Trust.

This is a 10-year schedule. However, the information in this schedule is not required to be presented retroactively. Years will be added to this schedule in future fiscal years until 10 years of information is available.

Changes of Assumptions for TCRS Plans. In 2021, the following assumptions were changed: decreased inflation rate from 2.50 percent to 2.25 percent; decreased the investment rate of return from 7.25 percent to 6.75; decreased the cost-of-living adjustment from 2.25 percent to 2.125 percent; and modified mortality assumptions. In 2017, the following assumptions were changed: decreased inflation rate from 3.00 percent to 2.50 percent; decreased the investment rate of return.



## STEM PREPARATORY ACADEMY SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS AND STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022

Program Name/Grantor	CFDA <u>Number</u>	Contract Number	Expenditures
Federal Awards			
Total Federal Awards			<u>\$</u>
State Financial Assistance			
TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION:			
Basic Education Program	N/A	N/A	222,000
High Quality Charter School Facilities Program Grant	N/A	N/A	142,642
Passed through Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools			
Basic Education Program	N/A	N/A	14,655,493
Total State Awards			\$ 15,020,135

Note 1: The schedule of expenditures of federal awards includes the federal grant activity and is presented in accordance with the requirements of the Uniform Guidance and the State of Tennessee. The schedule is prepared using the accrual basis of accounting.

Note 2: STEM pass through \$-0- to subrecipients for the year ended June 30, 2022.

Note 3: STEM elected not to use the 10% de minimus indirect cost rate allowed under the Uniform Guidance.

### STEM PREPARATORY ACADEMY SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN LONG-TERM DEBT BY INDIVIDUAL ISSUE JUNE 30, 2022

Description of Indebtedness	 Original Amount of Issue	Interest Rate	Date of Issue	Last Maturity Date	Outstanding 7/1/2021	; 	Issued During Period	 Paid and/or Matured During Period	 Forgiven During Period	utstanding /30/2022
Governmental Activities:										
NOTES PAYABLE  Payable through General Purpose School Fund Construction Loan through Pathway Lending Construction Loan through Pathway Lending Note Payable through Pinnacle Bank Total Notes Payable	\$ 3,858,251 12,514 200,000	5.25% 4.85% 4.25%	09/27/2019 05/05/2021 05/15/2020	10/01/2024 01/01/2042 05/12/2025	\$ 3,480,66 12,5 160,1 \$ 3,653,26	4 _	7,007,967 - 7,007,967	\$ 3,480,629 118,265 38,480 3,637,374	\$ - - -	\$ 6,902,216 121,635 7,023,851
LINE-OF-CREDIT										
Payable through General Purpose School Fund Line-of-credit through Pinnacle Bank	\$ 325,000	4.00%	06/16/2015	05/13/2024	\$ -			\$ 	\$ -	\$ 

#### STEM PREPARATORY ACADEMY SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN LEASE OBLIGATIONS JUNE 30, 2022

Description of Indebtedness	 Original Amount of Issue	Interest Rate	Date of Issue	Last Maturity Date	Restated Outstanding 7/1/2021	D	sued uring eriod	aid and/or Matured During Period	Remea	surements	Outstanding 6/30/2022
Governmental Activities:											
LEASES PAYABLE  Payable through General Purpose School Fund  Bus lease through Wells Fargo  Bus lease through Wells Fargo  Lease - Middle School Building	\$ 1,217,350 283,676 1,828,090	5.00% 5.00% 4.85%	07/10/2018 04/19/2019 07/01/2021	07/10/2025 04/10/2026 07/01/2034	\$ 760,855 205,832 1,748,502 2,715,189	\$	- - - -	\$ 172,255 38,611 79,060 289,926	\$	- - - -	\$ 588,600 167,221 1,669,442 2,425,263

#### STEM PREPARATORY ACADEMY SCHEDULE OF LEASE REQUIREMENTS BY YEAR JUNE 30, 2022

Year Ending		Leases	
June 30	Principal	Interest	Total
2023	\$ 307,953	\$ 111,830	\$ 419,783
2024	326,955	96,135	423,090
2025	346,985	79,479	426,464
2026	166,896	65,816	232,712
2027	119,724	59,277	179,001
2028-2032	754,011	196,148	950,159
2033-2037	402,739	21,624	424,363
Total	\$ 2,425,263	\$ 630,309	\$ 3,055,572

#### SCHEDULE OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES BY SCHOOL STEM PREPARATORY ACADEMY MIDDLE SCHOOL GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

TITATE	20	2022
JUNE	<b>4()</b>	2022
JUIT	$_{J}$	2022

		General Purpose School Fund		Federal and State Grants Fund	Contri	ricted ibution and	Go	Total vernmental Funds
ASSETS								
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	3,099,351	\$	-	\$	-	\$	3,099,351
Receivables		489,818		153,179		-		642,997
Due from other funds		153,179		-		-		153,179
Other current assets		23,050		-		-		23,050
Restricted Asset:								
TCRS Stabilization Reserve Trust		149,013		<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>		149,013
Total assets	<u>\$</u>	3,914,411	<u>\$</u>	153,179	<u>\$</u>		\$	4,067,590
LIABILITIES								
Accounts payable	\$	189,851	\$	-	\$	-	\$	189,851
Accrued expenditures		178,079		-		-		178,079
Due to other funds		_		153,179		<u>-</u>		153,179
Total liabilities		367,930		153,179				521,109
FUND BALANCES								
Nonspendable		23,050		-		-		23,050
Restricted		149,013		-		-		149,013
Unassigned		3,374,418						3,374,418
Total fund balances		3,546,481		-		_		3,546,481
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of								
resources and fund balances	<u>\$</u>	3,914,411	<u>\$</u>	153,179	<u>\$</u>	=	\$	4,067,590

#### SCHEDULE OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES BY SCHOOL STEM PREPARATORY ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

HIME	20	2022
JUNE	οu,	2022

	_	General Purpose School Fund		Federal and State Grants Fund	Restric Contribu Fund	tion	Go	Total vernmental Funds
ASSETS								
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	3,100,531	\$	-	\$	-	\$	3,100,531
Receivables		490,062		153,180		-		643,242
Due from other funds		153,180		-		-		153,180
Other current assets		23,050		-		-		23,050
Restricted Asset:								
TCRS Stabilization Reserve Trust		149,070		<u>-</u>				149,070
Total assets	<u>\$</u>	3,915,893	<u>\$</u>	153,180	<u>\$</u>	<del>-</del>	\$	4,069,073
LIABILITIES								
Accounts payable	\$	189,923	\$	-	\$	-	\$	189,923
Accrued expenditures		178,146		-		-		178,146
Due to other funds				153,180				153,180
Total liabilities		368,069		153,180				521,249
FUND BALANCES								
Nonspendable		23,050		-		-		23,050
Restricted		149,070		-		-		149,070
Unassigned		3,375,704		<u> </u>				3,375,704
Total fund balances		3,547,824		_		_		3,547,824
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of								
resources and fund balances	<u>\$</u>	3,915,893	<u>\$</u>	153,180	<u>\$</u>		\$	4,069,073

## SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES BY SCHOOL STEM PREPARATORY ACADEMY MIDDLE SCHOOL

#### GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022

	General Purpose School Fund	Federal and State Grants Fund	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES			
Contributions	\$ 78,837		\$ 78,837
District funding	7,326,354	-	7,326,354
Federal and state grants		1,470,190	1,470,190
Other income	66,221	-	66,221
Other income - internal school funds	10,168		10,168
Total revenues	7,481,580	1,470,190	8,951,770
EXPENDITURES			
Current:			
Instructional	91,235	-	91,235
Instructional - Internal school funds	10,168	-	10,168
Occupancy	602,613	-	602,613
Office	144,617	-	144,617
Organizational development	41,102	-	41,102
Other	45,700	-	45,700
Professional services and fees	538,703	-	538,703
Employee compensation	3,568,939	1,372,190	4,941,129
Staff development	80,841	<b>-</b>	80,841
Transportation	596,488	-	596,488
Debt Service			
Principal	215,027	-	215,027
Interest	234,650	-	234,650
Capital outlay	1,674,122	98,000	1,772,122
Total expenditures	7,844,205	1,470,190	9,314,395
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):			
Transfers out	(169,961	.) -	(169,961)
Issuance of debt	1,800,000	-	1,800,000
Total other financing sources	1,630,039		1,630,039
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	1,267,414	-	1,267,414
FUND BALANCES, June 30, 2021, as restated	2,279,067	<u>-</u>	2,279,067
FUND BALANCES, June 30, 2022	\$ 3,546,481	<u> </u>	<u>\$ 3,546,481</u>

See independent auditor's report and notes to schedules

## SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES BY SCHOOL STEM PREPARATORY ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL

#### GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022

	General Purpose School Fund	Federal and State Grants Fund	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES			
Contributions	\$ 78,835	\$ -	\$ 78,835
District funding	7,329,139	-	7,329,139
Federal and state grants	-	1,247,117	1,247,117
Other income	74,703	-	74,703
Other income - internal school funds	10,228	-	10,228
Total revenues	7,492,905	1,247,117	8,740,022
EXPENDITURES			
Current:			
Instructional	94,122	-	94,122
Instructional - Internal school funds	10,228	-	10,228
Occupancy	657,324	-	657,324
Office	144,655	-	144,655
Organizational development	43,736	-	43,736
Other	98,444	-	98,444
Professional services and fees	583,436	-	583,436
Employee compensation	2,886,822	1,123,117	4,009,939
Staff development	86,102	-	86,102
Transportation	596,488	-	596,488
Debt Service			
Principal	3,712,275	-	3,712,275
Interest	151,902	-	151,902
Capital outlay	2,480,996	124,000	2,604,996
Total expenditures	11,546,530	1,247,117	12,793,647
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES:			
Transfers in	169,961	-	169,961
Issuance of debt	5,207,968	-	5,207,968
Total other financing sources	5,377,929		5,377,929
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	1,324,304	-	1,324,304
FUND BALANCES, June 30, 2021	2,223,520		2,223,520
FUND BALANCES, June 30, 2022	<u>\$ 3,547,824</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$ 3,547,824</u>

See independent auditor's report and notes to schedules

# STEM PREPARATORY ACADEMY NOTES TO SCHEDULE OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES BY SCHOOL AND SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES BY SCHOOL AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022

As of June 30, 2022, STEM Preparatory Academy operates the following charter schools in Nashville, Tennessee (collectively, the "Schools"):

STEM Preparatory Academy Middle School (grades five through eight) STEM Preparatory Academy High School (grades nine through twelve)

#### **Allocations**

Each school is a part of STEM Preparatory Academy. STEM Preparatory Academy maintains a central office for management and support of the schools. Most activities, including fundraising and administration are conducted centrally. Accordingly, all assets, liabilities, fund balance, revenues and expenses recorded on the central office general ledger have been allocated between the two schools. Any financial transactions and balances directly related to a school are recorded directly to that school. Financial transactions and balances of the central office are allocated to the schools using the following methodology:

- Cash transfers are made to fund any unrestricted operating deficits and growth needs
- Revenues from fundraising are allocated based primarily on enrollment.
- Expenditures of shared services and administration are allocated based on enrollment.
- Capital outlay of shared facilities are allocated based on use by the schools.

#### Cash and Cash Equivalents

STEM Preparatory Academy operates a pooled-cash management program for the benefit of the schools. Cash balances reported within the schedule of assets, liabilities, and fund balance by school represent each school's portion of the pooled-cash program, resulting from its operations. Also included in STEM Preparatory Academy Middle School's cash balances are accounts received from central fundraising activities, which have not been transferred or utilized by the other school. STEM Preparatory Academy Middle School, as the first school in the STEM Preparatory Academy network, holds these funds for operational needs and future development.

STEM Preparatory Academy, under the direction of the Board of Directors, and within limits of grant agreements or donor restrictions, may make transfers among the schools as necessary to fund operations and growth. Accordingly, cash presented for each school may be transferred among the STEM Preparatory Academy schools.



Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over
Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters
Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in
Accordance with Government Auditing Standards

To the Board of Directors STEM Preparatory Academy Nashville, Tennessee

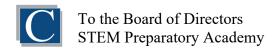
We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of STEM Preparatory Academy, operating Tennessee Public Charter Schools STEM Preparatory Academy Middle School and STEM Preparatory Academy High School, ("STEM") as of and for the year ended June 30, 2022, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise STEM's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated March 24, 2023.

#### Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

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

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

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



#### **Report on Compliance and Other Matters**

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

#### **Purpose of this Report**

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

Nashville, Tennessee

Josslin, Pll

March 24, 2023

#### STEM PREPARATORY ACADEMY SCHEDULE OF AUDIT FINDINGS AND RESPONSES YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS

None reported.

PRIOR YEAR AUDIT FINDINGS

No prior audit findings.