STEM PREPARATORY ACADEMY

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2019

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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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of Directors STEM Preparatory Academy Nashville, Tennessee

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying 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, (collectively "STEM") as of and for the year ended June 30, 2019, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise STEM's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

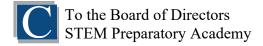
Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes 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.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. 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. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.



We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Opinions

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, 2019, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

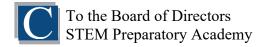
Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of American require that the management's discussion and analysis on pages 5 - 13 and the schedule of proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) and schedule of employer contributions on pages 49 - 51 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considered it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other 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 introductory section on page 1, the schedule of changes in long-term debt by individual issue on page 53, the schedule of assets, liabilities and fund balances by school and schedule of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balances by school on pages 54 - 58 are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. The schedules of expenditures of federal awards and state financial assistance are presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by the State of Tennessee, and is also not a required part of the basic financial statements.



The schedule of changes in long-term debt by individual issue, the schedule of assets, liabilities, and fund balances by school, the schedule of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balances by school and schedules of expenditures of federal awards and state financial assistance are the responsibility of management and were derived from and relate directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such 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 information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

The introductory section has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied to the audit of the basic financial statements, and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide assurance on it.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 5, 2020, on our consideration of STEM'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'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's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Mollin, PLLC

Nashville, Tennessee March 5, 2020

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, 2019 as compared to 2018. 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 \$848,658 in 2019 or 10%, while total liabilities and deferred inflows of resources increased \$811,249 or 12%. Total revenues for STEM increased by \$1,345,174 or 13%. STEM's governmental activities total program costs for 2019 increased \$1,132,585 or 16%. Overall, STEM's 2019 net position increased \$37,409. The increase in total revenues and costs over the prior year was primarily related to the continued growth of STEM, including the addition of the inaugural 12th grade class at the high school. In addition, non-cash depreciation expense increased by \$164,369 related to both the acquisition of 17 school buses under a long-term capital lease, as well as the addition of a 5,000 square foot modular building on the high school campus.

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 14.

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 16. 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 17 and 19.

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 \$2,437,217. STEM's net position includes \$1,238,270 of cash and cash equivalents. All cash is available to meet STEM's ongoing operating activities and growth strategy.

As of June 30, 2019, STEM had invested a total of \$7,565,642 in capital assets. 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 of 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 a construction loan to fund improvements to the schools. As of June 30, 2019, STEM has an outstanding principal balance of \$3,643,897 on their construction loans. The lease term with Metro is for 10 years ending July 2023 with two 5-year extensions. STEM also has an equipment loan that has an outstanding principal of \$169,817 as of June 30, 2019. During 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. Additional information on the lease, construction loan, and property and equipment are located in the notes to the financial statements.

A schedule of STEM's net position as of June 30, 2019 and 2018 is as follows:

	2019	2018
Current assets Noncurrent assets Total assets	\$1,355,262 <u>7,859,282</u> <u>9,214,544</u>	\$1,939,314 <u>6,427,289</u> <u>8,366,603</u>
Deferred outflows of resources	584,572	583,855
Current liabilities Noncurrent liabilities Total liabilities	1,725,911 <u>4,439,031</u> <u>6,164,942</u>	1,409,736 <u>3,913,193</u> <u>5,322,929</u>
Deferred inflows of resources	1,196,957	1,227,721
Net position: Net investment in capital assets Unrestricted	2,393,795 43,422	1,706,540 <u>693,268</u>
Total net position	<u>\$2,437,217</u>	<u>\$2,399,808</u>

STEM had deferred inflows of \$202,982 for future rent, \$438,000 for a tenant improvement reimbursement, and \$555,975 related to pensions at June 30, 2019. Deferred outflows totaling \$584,572 are related to pensions.

Total revenues generated from government grants, governmental funds, and donations were \$11,513,112 during the 2019 fiscal year which is a \$1,298,556 or 13% increase over 2018. STEM realized an overall increase in federal funding compared to 2018 as a result of increased funding from Title I and IDEA programs due to increased enrollment. District funding was also awarded in 2019 for STEM's eighth academic year. The main driver of this award is student enrollment, which increased due to the addition of a 12th grade class. STEM continued building enrollment through concerted recruiting and marketing efforts in the community and was able to start their eighth academic year with an enrollment of over 1,000 students.

Total expenses were \$11,621,400 during the 2019 fiscal year, which was \$2,005,191 higher than 2018. The majority of this increase is directly related to hiring of additional teachers, instructional expenses related to the addition of a 12th grade class, occupancy, and expansion costs related to the additional growth of the middle and high schools, as well as an increase in non-cash depreciation expense related to the acquisition of school buses and a new building.

A schedule of STEM's revenue and expenses for the years ended June 30, 2019 and 2018, is as follows. The schedule is for the organization as a whole, not for the governmental funds.

	2019	2018
Revenues		
Contributions	\$ 330,639	\$ 693,249
District funding	10,221,397	8,686,308
Federal and state grants	961,076	834,999
Other	145,697	99,079
Total revenues	11,658,809	10,313,635
Expenses		
Instructional	312,746	158,040
Occupancy	904,949	707,330
Office	213,032	168,023
Organizational development	78,951	75,686
Other	189,162	93,629
Service fees	1,068,843	719,985
Employee compensation	6,501,250	5,675,884
Staff development	104,032	76,096
Transportation	981,982	898,875
Interest	267,973	208,550
Depreciation	998,480	834,111
Total expenses	11,621,400	9,616,209
Change in net position	<u>\$ 37,409</u>	<u>\$ 697,426</u>

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE ORGANIZATION'S FUNDS

STEM's funds, as presented on the Balance Sheet on page 16, report a combined fund balance of \$572,859. 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, 2019, the differences consist of capital assets, long-term debt, deferred rent, tenant improvement allowances, 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 high schools and universities in the country, and (2) become the leaders and innovators of the 21st 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. Approximately 90% 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.

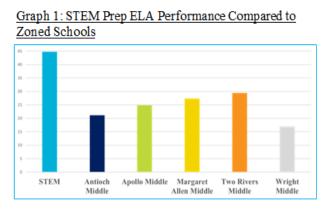
Nashville Newcomer Academy

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 180 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 exponentially year over year and additional capacity is required to ensure EL students achieve significant gains and advance in the college and career trajectory.

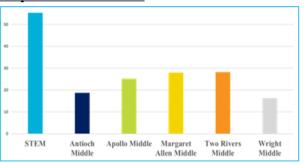
<u>Academic Results</u>

Middle School:

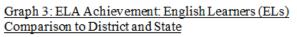
- Since its first year of operation, STEM Prep has outperformed the district and state every year in both reading and math.
- On average, the number of STEM Prep students performing on or above grade level in reading and math is more than double that of zoned schools.

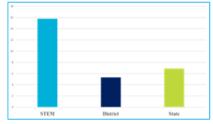


Graph 2: STEM Prep Mathematics Performance Compared to Zoned Schools

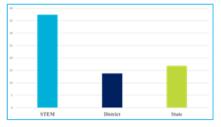


• The number of STEM Prep ELs on or above grade level in English/Language Arts and math is more than 2 times the state average and 3 times the district average.





<u>Graph 4: Math Achievement: English Leamers (ELs)</u> <u>Comparison to District and State</u>

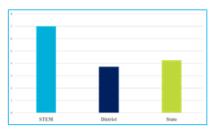


- Across <u>all</u> student subgroups, including Students with Disabilities (SWD), Economically Disadvantaged (ED), and Black, Hispanic, and Native American students, STEM Prep outperforms the district and state.
- STEM Prep Middle has earned a Level 5 TVAAS rating every year of its existence.

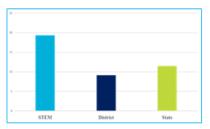
Nashville Newcomer Academy:

- In English/Language Arts, STEM Prep newcomer students outperform all English Learners at the district level. Roughly 1.5 times the number of STEM Prep newcomers are on grade level compared to all ELs, which include populations such as U.S-born ELs and ELs in the country for multiple years.
- In math, STEM Prep newcomer students outperform all English Learners at the district and state levels. Two times the number of STEM Prep newcomers are on grade level compared to all English Learners across the district.

Graph 5: ELA Achievement: STEM Newcomers Compared to District and State ELs

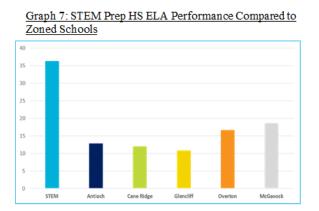


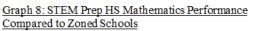
<u>Graph 6: Math Achievement: STEM Newcomers</u> <u>Compared to District and State ELs</u>

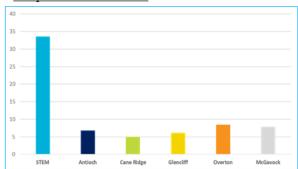


High School:

- Since its first year of operation, STEM Prep High has outperformed the district and state in English/Language Arts, mathematics, and biology.
- On average, the number of STEM Prep High students performing on or above grade level in English/Language Arts is more than double that of zoned schools. In mathematics, the number of STEM Prep students performing on or above grade level is more than triple that of zoned schools.







- Across <u>all</u> student subgroups, including Students with Disabilities (SWD), Economically Disadvantaged (ED), and Black, Hispanic, and Native American students, STEM Prep High outperforms the district and state.
- During the charter term, STEM Prep High achieved a mean TVAAS score of 4.0 compared to the district score of 1.5.
- STEM Prep High outperformed the district and its matched zoned schools on the ACT each year of testing.

Inaugural High School Graduating Class

In May 2019 STEM graduated its first high school class, comprised predominantly of students who have been continuously enrolled at STEM since middle school. The graduating class of 95 students earned approximately \$3 million in college scholarships and 100 percent of graduates enrolled in post-secondary institutions. To support equitable access to college among our DACA students, STEM secured philanthropy to fund four years of college tuition for each DACA student.

Further, through STEM Prep's dual credit partnership, the graduating class earned over 150 college credits. Students enrolled in STEM's Health Sciences Pathway completed requisite coursework and practica, per the Tennessee Board of Health and the Department of Education, for the Certified Medical Assistant (CMA) license. STEM has a 100 percent pass rate for students who sat for the CMA exam.

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 2018-2019, 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 1,500 hours of counseling, as summarized below.

Service Type	Individuals Served	Sessions	Hours
Crisis Intervention or other immediate services	274	812	701
Long Term Counseling Services	62	831	847
Workshops	50	2	4
Total	386	1,645	1,551

STUDENT ENROLLMENT FACTORS AND NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET

Fiscal year 2019 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 2020 will represent the fifth year of operations for Nashville Newcomer Academy. The school expects per pupil BEP funding to remain flat for the 2019-20 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, 2019

	Governmental Activities
ASSETS	\$ 1,238,270
Cash and cash equivalents Accounts receivable	\$ 1,238,270 44,353
Other current assets	72,639
Capital assets, net	7,565,642
Net pension asset	226,955
Restricted Asset:	
TCRS Stabilization Reserve Trust	66,685
Total assets	9,214,544
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Pensions	584,572
LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable	699,116
Accrued expenses	149,972
Long-term debt due within one year	876,823
Long-term debt due in more than one year	4,295,024
Net pension liability	144,007
Total liabilities	6,164,942
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Deferred rent	202,982
Tenant improvement allowance	438,000
Pensions	555,975
Total deferred inflows of resources	1,196,957
NET POSITION	
Net investment in capital assets	2,393,795
Unrestricted	43,422
Total net position	\$ 2,437,217

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

STEM PREPARATORY ACADEMY STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019

				I	Functions		
			Student				
		Ins	struction and				
GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES:	 Total		Services	Ad	ministration	Fund	aising
EXPENSES							
Instructional	\$ 312,746	\$	312,746	\$	-	\$	-
Occupancy	904,949		723,959		180,990		-
Office	213,032		-		213,032		-
Organizational development	78,951		-		78,951		-
Other	189,162		188,096		1,066		-
Professional services and fees	1,068,843		-		1,068,843		-
Employee compensation	6,501,250		5,116,269		1,384,981		-
Staff development	104,032		84,434		19,598		-
Transportation	981,982		981,982		-		-
Interest	267,973		-		267,973		-
Depreciation	 998,480		798,784		199,696		-
Total expenses	11,621,400		8,206,270		3,415,130		-
PROGRAM REVENUES							
Operating grants and contributions	552,076		552,076		-		-
Capital grants and contributions	 409,000		409,000				_
Net program expenses	 10,660,324	\$	7,245,194	\$	3,415,130	\$	_
GENERAL REVENUES							
Contributions	330,639						
District funding	10,221,397						
Other	 145,697						
Total general revenues	 10,697,733						
CHANGE IN NET POSITION	37,409						
NET POSITION, June 30, 2018	 2,399,808						
NET POSITION, June 30, 2019	\$ 2,437,217						

STEM PREPARATORY ACADEMY BALANCE SHEET GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS JUNE 30, 2019

	General		Federal				
	Purpose	a	nd State	Restri	icted		Total
	School		Grants	Contril	oution	Go	vernmental
	 Fund		Fund	Fu	nd		Funds
ASSETS							
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,238,270	\$	-	\$	-	\$	1,238,270
Accounts receivable	22,900		21,453		-		44,353
Due from other funds	21,453		-		-		21,453
Other current assets	72,639		-		-		72,639
Restricted Asset:							
TCRS Stabilization Reserve Trust	 66,685		-		-		66,685
Total assets	\$ 1,421,947	\$	21,453	\$	-	\$	1,443,400
LIABILITIES							
Accounts payable	\$ 699,116	\$	-	\$	-	\$	699,116
Accrued expenditures	149,972		-		-		149,972
Due to other funds	 -		21,453		-		21,453
Total liabilities	849,088		21,453		-		870,541
FUND BALANCES							
Nonspendable	72,639		-		-		72,639
Unassigned	 500,220		-		-		500,220
Total fund balances	 572,859		-		-		572,859
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources							
and fund balances	\$ 1,421,947	\$	21,453	\$	-	\$	1,443,400

STEM PREPARATORY ACADEMY BALANCE SHEET GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS - CONTINUED JUNE 30, 2019

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			
Capital assets not reported in the balance sheet		7,565,642	
Pension amounts not reported in the balance sheet			
Net pension asset		226,955	
Net pension liability		(144,007)	
Deferred inflows of resources for pensions		(555,975)	
Deferred outflows of resources for pensions		584,572	
Long-term debt	((5,171,847)	
Deferred inflows of resources related to deferred rent		(202,982)	
Deferred inflows of resources for tenant improvements		(438,000)	
Net position of governmental activities in the statement of net position	\$	2,437,217	

STEM PREPARATORY ACADEMY STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019

REVENUES	General Purpose School Fund	Federal and State Grants Fund	Restricted Contribution Fund	Total Governmental Funds
Contributions	\$ 302,139	¢	\$ 28,500	\$ 330,639
District funding	\$ 302,139 10,221,397	\$ -	\$ 28,300	\$ 330,039 10,221,397
Federal and state grants	10,221,397	961,076	-	961,076
Other income	145,697	901,070	_	145,697
Total revenues	10,669,233	961,076	28,500	11,658,809
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
Instructional	312,746	-	-	312,746
Occupancy	936,220	-	-	936,220
Office	213,032	-	-	213,032
Organizational development	78,951	-	-	78,951
Other	189,162	-	-	189,162
Professional services and fees	1,040,343	-	28,500	1,068,843
Employee compensation	6,021,974	552,076	-	6,574,050
Staff development	104,032	-	-	104,032
Transportation	981,982	-	-	981,982
Debt service:			-	
Principal	1,228,248	-	-	1,228,248
Interest	267,973	-	-	267,973
Capital outlay	1,820,659	409,000		2,229,659
Total expenditures	13,195,322	961,076	28,500	14,184,898
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES:				
Issuance of debt	1,772,172			1,772,172
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	(753,917)	-	-	(753,917)
FUND BALANCES, June 30, 2018	1,326,776			1,326,776
FUND BALANCES, June 30, 2019	\$ 572,859	<u>\$</u> -	\$	\$ 572,859

STEM PREPARATORY ACADEMY STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - CONTINUED GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019

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	\$ (753,917)
Issuance of long-term debt recorded as revenue in the governmental fund statements, but reflected as long-term debt in the school-wide statements.	(1,772,172)
Amounts reported as expenditures in the governmental funds not included as expenses in	
the school-wide statements:	
Capital outlays	2,229,659
Principal payments on long-term debt	1,228,248
Expenses in the school-wide statements not included in the governmental funds:	
Depreciation and amortization expense	(998,480)
Occupancy expense increase associated with deferred rent and tenant	
improvement allowance	31,271
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.	72,800
Change in net position of governmental activities	\$ 37,409

A. <u>SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES</u>

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 9th grade class and added an additional grade each year culminating with a 12th 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 two categories - investment in capital assets; 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. <u>SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES</u> - 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, 2019. 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 Restricted Contribution Fund is used to account for the receipt and disbursement of private contributions restricted primarily for specific purposes.

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. <u>SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES</u> - 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.

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.

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

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.

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's deferred inflows of resources includes \$202,982 in deferred rent and \$438,000 for deferred tenant improvements (see Note F), and pensions which relate to differences between expected and actual experience and differences between projected and actual investment earnings.

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

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 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.

Estimates and Uncertainties

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Significant estimates include the useful lives of property and equipment, and actuarial assumptions related to pension calculations.

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.

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

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 \$21,453 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. <u>DEPOSITS WITH FINANCIAL INSTITUTION</u>

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, 2019, 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. <u>CAPITAL ASSETS</u>

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

	Balance July 1, 2018	Additions/ <u>Transfers in</u>	Retirements/ Transfers out	Balance June 30, 2019
<i>Nondepreciable</i> Construction in progress	<u>\$ 598,435</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$598,435</u>	<u>\$</u>
Depreciable				
Office equipment	121,243	1,777	-	123,020
Furniture and fixtures	444,664	26,065	-	470,729
Computer equipment	485,778	58,941	-	544,719
Maintenance equipment	-	9,800	-	9,800
Leasehold improvements	6,796,673	373,462	-	7,170,135
Buildings	-	858,029	-	858,029
Transportation		1,500,020		1,500,020
Total depreciable				
capital assets	7,848,358	2,828,094	-	10,676,452
Accumulated depreciation	(2,112,330)	(998,480)		(3,110,810)
Capital assets, net	<u>\$ 6,334,463</u>	<u>\$ 1,829,614</u>	<u>\$598,435</u>	<u>\$ 7,565,642</u>

Depreciation was charged to governmental activities as follows:

Student instruction and services	\$798,784
Administration	<u>199,696</u>
	<u>\$998,480</u>

During fiscal year 2019, STEM leased buses under capital leases. Assets under the capital leases totaled \$1,500,020 and is included in Transportation above. Amortization of the buses held under the capital leases totaled \$132,431 at June 30, 2019, and is included in depreciation expense.

D. <u>LINE-OF-CREDIT</u>

STEM has a \$325,000 line-of-credit with a bank that expires in May 2020. The line of credit bears interest at the bank's base rate which was 5.5% at June 30, 2019. Substantially all assets of STEM collateralize the line of credit. The line of credit has no outstanding balance at June 30, 2019.

E. LONG-TERM DEBT

Notes Payable

In July 2013, STEM entered into a \$629,641 line of credit agreement to fund the leasehold improvements of the school's facilities. The loan is collateralized by a life insurance policy and substantially all the assets of STEM. The loan accrues interest at a fixed rate of 4.75%. Principal and interest are due in monthly installments of \$8,850 through October 2020. The line of credit was paid in full in fiscal year 2019.

In April 2014, STEM entered into a \$225,000 line of credit agreement to fund additional leasehold improvements to the school's facilities. The loan is collateralized by a life insurance policy and substantially all the assets of STEM. The loan accrues interest at a fixed rate of 4.75%. Interest only payments were due monthly through November 1, 2014. Beginning December 1, 2014, principal and interest are due in monthly installments of \$3,359 through May 2021. In October 2018, the entire outstanding principal balance was paid in full.

In June 2015, STEM entered into a \$650,000 line of credit agreement to fund additional leasehold improvements of the school's facilities. The loan is collateralized by substantially all the assets of STEM. The loan accrues interest at a fixed rate of 5.00%. Principal and interest are due in monthly installments of \$12,255 through June 2020. The outstanding principal balance at June 30, 2019 totaled \$137,033.

In June 2015, STEM entered into a \$100,000 line of credit agreement to fund additional leasehold improvements of the school's facilities. The loan is collateralized by substantially all the assets of STEM. The loan accrues interest at a fixed rate of 2.00%. Principal and interest are due in monthly installments of \$1,734 through June 2020. The outstanding principal balance at June 30, 2019 totaled \$27,538.

In June 2016, STEM entered into a \$400,000 debt agreement to fund the purchases of furniture and equipment. The debt is collateralized by all of the furniture and 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 \$7,423 through June 2021. The outstanding principal balance at June 30, 2019 totaled \$169,817.

In July 2016, STEM entered into a \$2,800,000 line of credit agreement to fund additional leasehold improvements of the school's facilities. The loan is collateralized by substantially all the assets of STEM. The loan accrues interest at a fixed rate of 4.75%. Principal and interest are due in monthly installments of \$29,360 through December 2026. The outstanding principal balance at June 30, 2019 totaled \$2,219,496.

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

In July 2017, STEM entered into a \$900,000 line of credit agreement to fund additional leasehold improvements of the school's facilities. The loan is collateralized by substantially all the assets of STEM. The loan accrues interest at a fixed rate of 4.75%. Principal and interest are due in monthly installments of \$9,904 through January 2027. The outstanding principal balance at June 30, 2019 totaled \$655,615.

In June 2018, STEM entered into a \$720,000 line of credit agreement to fund additional leasehold improvements of the school's facilities. The loan is collateralized by substantially all the assets of STEM. The loan accrues interest at a fixed rate of 5.15%. Principal and interest are due in monthly installments of \$10,229 through June 2025. The outstanding principal balance at June 30, 2019 totaled \$604,215.

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.

The following is a summary of changes in STEM's notes payable for governmental activities for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019:

	Balance July 1, 2018	Additions	Payments	Balance June 30, 2019
Note payable - bank	\$ 228,350	\$ -	\$ 228,350	\$ -
Note payable - bank	109,469	-	109,469	-
Note payable - bank	273,467	-	136,434	137,033
Note payable - bank	47,817	-	20,279	27,538
Note payable - bank	2,459,572	-	240,076	2,219,496
Note payable - bank	249,822	-	80,005	169,817
Note payable - bank	836,279	-	180,664	655,615
Note payable - bank	423,147	272,152	91,084	604,215
Total	<u>\$4,627,923</u>	<u>\$272,152</u>	<u>\$1,086,361</u>	<u>\$3,813,714</u>

A summary of annual principal and interest requirements follows:

Year Ending June 30,	Interest	Principal
2020	\$165,398	\$ 685,982
2021	136,524	545,802
2022 2023	119,730 88,648	481,775 505,267
2023	64,009	529,906
Thereafter	57,560	1,064,981
	<u>\$631,868</u>	<u>\$3,813,714</u>

E. LONG-TERM DEBT - Continued

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. The loan accrues interest at a fixed rate of 5.25%. Principal and interest are due in monthly installments of \$41,090 through September 2024. The loan is scheduled to mature in October 2024 at which point all outstanding principal and interest will be due. Total advances received at the time of the refinance amounted to \$3,684,282.

Capital Lease Obligations

In July 2018, STEM entered into a capital 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 capital 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 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.

A summary of changes in STEM's capital leases for governmental activities for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019 follows:

		ance , <u>2018</u>	Additions	Payments 1	Balance June 30, 2019
Capital lease - buses Capital lease - buses	\$	-	\$1,216,852 	\$136,230 <u>5,657</u>	\$1,080,623
Total	<u>\$</u>		<u>\$1,500,020</u>	<u>\$141,886</u>	<u>\$1,358,133</u>

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

Year Ending June 30,

The future minimum lease obligations as of June 30, 2019 are as follows:

2020	\$ 254,414
2021	254,414
2022	254,414
2023	254,414
2024	254,414
Thereafter	311,633
Total minimum lease payments	1,583,703
Less: amount representing	
interest	(225,570)
Present value of future minimum	1
lease payments	1,358,131
Due within one year	190,841
Long-term portion	<u>\$1,167,292</u>

F. <u>LEASING EXPENSES</u>

In May 2013, STEM entered into a lease agreement with the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County ("Metro") to occupy educational space in South Nashville. The lease term is for 10 years commencing from August 1, 2013 with the option to extend two 5-year terms each. The lease requires STEM to pay rent in monthly installments of \$6,500 through July 2014, increasing 2% per year thereafter. The agreement also entitles STEM to credit against the payment of rent certain tenant improvements approved by Metro totaling \$674,083. The agreement was amended in July 2014 to include additional properties to be leased by STEM. The new lease term is for 10 years commencing from July 1, 2014 with the option to extend two 5-year terms each. The lease requires STEM to pay rent in monthly installments of \$11,781 through July 2015, increasing 2% per year thereafter. The agreement also entitles STEM to credit against the payment of rent certain tenant improvements approved by Metro totaling \$1,043,942. Tenant improvements were primarily funded by construction loans (See Note E). STEM recorded rent expense related to the lease based on a straight-line calculation which totaled \$41,729 for the fiscal year and is included in occupancy expense. Deferred rent related to the straight-line rent is \$202,982 at June 30, 2019, and presented with deferred inflows of resources.

F. <u>LEASING EXPENSES</u> - Continued

During 2016, STEM received \$730,000 in tenant leasehold improvement allowances to fund improvements towards the Newcomer Academy program at the middle school. Such amount has been recorded as a deferred inflow of resources on the school-wide financial statements and is being recognized as a reduction of rent expense over the life of the related improvements, resulting in a reduction of rent totaling \$73,000 for the year ended June 30, 2019. The net tenant improvement allowance totals \$438,000 at June 30, 2019, and is presented with deferred inflows of resources.

STEM's rent expense for the period ended 2019, net of the amortization related to deferred inflows, totaled \$(31,271) related to deferred rent and the tenant improvement allowance.

In March 2016, STEM entered into a lease agreement with Metro to occupy additional educational space in South Nashville for the High School. The lease term is for 10 years commencing from July 1, 2016 with the option to extend two 5-year terms each. The lease requires STEM to pay rent in monthly installments of \$24,650 through June 2019, increasing 5% every 3 years thereafter. The agreement also includes an option to purchase the property at a price ranging from \$2,000,000 to \$2,320,000.

In June 2019, STEM entered into a lease agreement for copier equipment. The lease term is for 5 years commencing July 1, 2019. The lease requires STEM to pay monthly lease installments of \$329 through June 2019.

The leases require monthly rental payments through July 1, 2026, as follows:

Year Ending June 30,

3
0
9
3
7
8
0

G. <u>FUND BALANCES</u>

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

H. <u>CONCENTRATIONS</u>

STEM received 88% 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, 2019, was \$10,221,397. Outside fundraising for capital needs is ongoing since the charter school agreement with MNPS does not include an allocation for capital expenditures.

I. <u>PENSION PLANS</u>

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"):

<u>Certificated Employees</u> Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System ("TCRS"): Teachers Legacy Pension Plan Teachers Retirement Plan (collectively the "TCRS Plans")

<u>Non-Certificated Employees</u> 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 publically available financial report that can be obtained at <u>www.treasury.state.tn.us/tcrs/</u>.

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.

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

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

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.

Teachers Legacy Pension Plan

Employer contributions by STEM for the year ended June 30, 2019, to the Teacher Legacy Pension Plan were \$102,659 which is 10.46 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, 2019 to the Teacher Retirement Plan were \$57,432, which is 1.94 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.

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

(B) Pension Liabilities (Assets) - TCRS Plans

Pension Liability (Asset)

Teachers Legacy Pension Plan

STEM reported an asset of (\$79,955) for its proportionate share of the net pension asset. The net pension liability (asset) was measured as of June 30, 2018, 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, 2018, STEM's proportion was 0.022721 percent. The proportion measured as of June 30, 2017 was 0.024653 percent.

Teachers Retirement Plan

At June 30, 2019, STEM reported an asset of (\$147,000) for its proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset). The net pension liability (asset) was measured as of June 30, 2018, 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, 2018, STEM's proportion was 0.324129 percent. The proportion measured as of June 30, 2017 as 0.321268 percent.

Actuarial Assumptions

Teachers Legacy Pension Plan and Teachers Retirement Plan

The total pension liability (asset) in the June 30, 2018, actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Inflation	2.5 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	7.25 percent, net of pension plan investment expenses, including inflation
Cost-of living adjustment	2.25 percent

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

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

The actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2018, actuarial valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience study performed for the period July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2016. 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, 2016 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 2.5 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:

Asset Class	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return	Target Allocation
U.S. equity	5.69%	31%
Developed market international equity	5.29%	14%
Emerging market international equity	6.36%	4%
Private equity and strategic lending	5.79%	20%
U.S. fixed income	2.01%	20%
Real estate	4.39%	10%
Short-term securities	0.00%	1%
		100%

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was established by the TCRS Board of Trustees as 7.25 percent based on a blending of the factors described above.

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

Discount Rate

Teachers Legacy Pension Plan and Teachers Retirement Plan

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.25 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

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 publically available comprehensive annual financial report of the Metropolitan Government. That report may be obtained at <u>www.nashville.gov</u>.

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.

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

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 nonvested 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.

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 12.340 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, 2019 were \$90,785.

(B) Pension Liabilities - Metro Plan

Pension Liability

STEM reported a liability of \$114,007 for its proportionate share of the net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2019, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2018. 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, 2019, relative to all contributions for 2019. At the June 30, 2019 measurement date, STEM's proportionate share was 0.117533 percent. At the June 30, 2018 measurement date, STEM's proportionate share was 0.091124 percent.

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

Actuarial Assumptions

The total pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2018. Actuarial assumptions are summarized below:

Inflation	2.5 percent
Salary increases	4.0 percent
Investment rate of return	7.25 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.

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:

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

Asset Class	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return	Target Allocation		
U.S. equity	5.1%	10-25%		
International equity	5.3%	10-25%		
Private equity	7.9%	5-15%		
Equity hedge	7.9%	0-10%		
Real estate	4.9%	5-15%		
Core plus fixed income	2.3%	5-25%		
Fixed income alternatives	2.7%	5-25%		

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.25 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, 2019:

TCRS Legacy Plan TCRS Retirement Plan	\$(79,955) <u>(147,000</u>)
Net pension (asset)	<u>\$(226,955)</u>
Metro Plan	<u>\$ 114,007</u>
Net pension liability	<u>\$ 114,007</u>

I. <u>PENSION PLANS</u> - 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 7.25 percent, as well as what STEM'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 (6.25 percent) or 1-percentage-point higher (8.25 percent) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease (6.25)%	1% Increase (8.25)%		
Proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset):	¢ (1(244	¢(70.055)	Ф(СБС 045)	
TCRS Legacy Plan	\$ 616,344	\$(79,955)	\$(656,045)	
TCRS Retirement Plan	22,727	(147,000)	(272,051)	
Metro Plan	<u> </u>	114,007	(293,906)	
Total	<u>\$1,168,026</u>	<u>\$(112,948</u>)	<u>\$(1,222,002</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, 2019, STEM recognized pension expense (negative pension expense) as follows:

TCRS Legacy Plan TCRS Retirement Plan	\$(115,030) (8,583)
Metro Plan	50,813
Negative pension expense	<u>\$(72,800</u>)

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

Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources

As of June 30, 2019, STEM reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resource	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and		
actual experience		
TCRS Legacy Plan	\$ 16,162	\$107,862
TCRS Retirement Plan	8,326	5,855
Metro Plan	68,181	67,595
Changes in assumptions		
TCRS Legacy Plan	47,222	-
TCRS Retirement Plan	6,935	-
Metro Plan	91,628	-
Net difference between projected		
and actual earnings on pension plan		
investments		
TCRS Legacy Plan	-	17,403
TCRS Retirement Plan	-	8,303
Metro Plan	-	174,676
Changes in proportion of Net Pension		
Liability (Asset)		
TCRS Legacy Plan	148,564	165,960
TCRS Retirement Plan	124	4,236
Metro Plan	37,339	4,085
Contributions subsequent to the		
measurement date of June 30, 2018		
TCRS Legacy Plan	102,659	
TCRS Retirement Plan	57,432	<u>N/A</u>
Totals	<u>\$584,572</u>	<u>\$555,975</u>

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

STEM's employer contributions of \$160,091 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, 2019. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

	TCRS Legacy		TCRS				
Year Ending June 30,		Plan	Retirement Plan		Metro Plan		Total
2020	\$	27,297	\$	(1,425)	\$	(27,030)	\$ (1,158)
2021		(14,716)		(1,690)		(70,771)	(87,177)
2022		(83,150)		(2,872)		(21,028)	(107,050)
2023		(8,710)		(704)		6,141	(3,273)
2024		-		403		25,973	26,376
Thereafter		-		3,279		37,510	40,788

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, 2019, STEM reported payables for the outstanding amount of contributions to the pension plans for the year ended June 30, 2019, as follows:

TCRS Legacy Plan TCRS Retirement Plan	\$ 8,328 9,954
Metro Plan	9,282
	<u>\$ 27,564</u>

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, 2019, STEM recognized pension expense of \$156,953 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 or amortized which approximates 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. 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, 2019, 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. <u>RESTRICTED ASSETS - TCRS STABILIZATION RESERVE TRUST</u>

- 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 using the Net Asset Value ("NAV") per share have no readily determinable fair value and have been determined using amortized cost which approximates fair value.

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 and are 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.

US 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.

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. <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, 2019, STEM assets balance was \$66,685 and had the following investments held by the trust on its behalf:

	Weighted Average Maturity		Fair
Investment	(days)	Maturities	Value
Investments at Fair Value:			
U.S. Equity	N/A	N/A	\$ 20,672
Developed Market International Equity	N/A	N/A	9,336
Emerging Market International Equity	N/A	N/A	2,667
U.S. Fixed Income	N/A	N/A	13,337
Real Estate	N/A	N/A	6,668
Short-term Securities	N/A	N/A	668
Investments at Amortized Cost using the NA	V:		
Private Equity and Strategic Lending	N/A	N/A	 13,337
Total			\$ 66,685

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

		Fair Value Measurements Using							A	Amortized
			Quoted							Cost
				Prices in						
				Active		Significant				
]	Markets for		Other		Significant		
				Identical		Observable	1	Unobservable		
Investment by Fair]	Fair Value		Assets		Inputs		Inputs		
Value Level		6-30-19		(Level 1)		(Level 2)		(Level 3)		NAV
U.S. Equity	\$	20,672	\$	20,672	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Developed Market										
International Equity		9,336		9,336		-		-		-
Emerging Market										
International Equity		2,667		2,667		-		-		-
U.S. Fixed Income		13,337		-		13,337		-		-
Real Estate		6,668		-		-		6,668		-
Short-term Securities		668		-		668		-		-
Private Equity and										
Strategic Lending		13,337		-		-		-		13,337
Total	\$	66,685	\$	32,675	\$	14,005	\$	6,668	\$	13,337

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. The Organization 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. The Organization does not have the ability to limit the credit ratings of individual investments made by the trust.

STEM NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019

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. The Organization 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 the Organization'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 <u>https://comptroller.tn.gov/content/dam/cot/sa/advanced-search/disclaimer/2019/ag18092.pdf</u>.

K. <u>COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES</u>

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 E). 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 30,2019 were \$967,697.

L. <u>SUBSEQUENT EVENTS</u>

STEM has evaluated subsequent events through March 5, 2020, the date at which the financial statements were available for issuance, and has determined that except or issuance of a new term loan described in Note E, there are no additional subsequent events requiring disclosure.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

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
Measurement date	Ju	ne 30, 2014	Ju	ne 30, 2015	Ju	ine 30, 2016	Ju	ne 30, 2017	Ju	ne 30, 2018
Proportion of the net pension liability (asset)		0.02720%		0.02327%		0.01994%		0.02465%		0.02272%
Proportionate share of the of the net pension liability (asset)	\$	(4,424)	\$	9,532	\$	124,632	\$	(8,066)	\$	(79,955)
Covered payroll	\$	1,076,178	\$	871,074	\$	719,896	\$	871,465	\$	795,633
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%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability		100.08%		99.81%		97.14%		100.14%		101.49%
Teachers Retirement Plan of TCRS		2015 (1)		2016		2017		2018		2019
Measurement date			Ju	ne 30, 2015	Ju	ine 30, 2016	Ju	ne 30, 2017	Ju	ne 30, 2018
Proportion of the net pension liability (asset)				0.29806%		0.28663%		0.32127%		0.32413%
Proportionate share of the of the net pension liability (asset)			\$	(11,991)	\$	(29,839)	\$	(84,760)	\$	(147,000)
Covered payroll			\$	619,296	\$	1,261,173	\$	2,223,741	\$	2,832,489
Proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) as a percentage of its covered payroll				-1.94%		-2.37%		-3.81%		-5.19%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability				127.46%		121.88%		126.81%		126.97%

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.

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

Metro Plan	2015		2016		2017		2018			2019
Measurement date	June 30, 2015		June 30, 2016		Ju	ne 30, 2017	June 30, 2018		Jur	ie 30, 2019
Proportion of the net pension liability (asset)		0.07440%		0.08263%		0.10093%		0.09112%		0.11753%
Proportionate share of the of the net pension liability (asset)	\$	51,297	\$	182,885	\$	41,317	\$	82,468	\$	114,007
Covered payroll	\$	389,092	\$	456,441	\$	604,173		565,203		735,697
Proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) as a percentage of its covered payroll		13.184%		40.068%		6.839%		14.591%		15.496%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability		97.57%		92.39%		98.64%		97.45%		96.37%

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
Actuarial Determined Contributions (ADC)	\$ 94,891	\$ 78,745	\$ 64,966	\$	78,781	\$ 72,243	\$ 102,659
Contributions in relation to the actuarially determined contribution	 94,891	 78,745	 64,966		78,781	 72,243	 102,659
Contribution deficiency (excess)	\$ 	\$ 	\$ 	\$		\$ 	\$
Covered payroll	\$ 1,076,178	\$ 871,074	\$ 719,896	\$	871,465	\$ 795,633	\$ 981,444
Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll	8.88%	9.04%	9.04%		9.04%	9.08%	10.46%
Teachers Retirement Plan of TCRS	 2014	 2015	 2016		2017	 2018	 2019 *
Actuarial Determined Contributions (ADC)	N/A	\$ 15,482	\$ 31,570	\$	84,344	\$ 46,191	\$ 57,432
Contributions in relation to the actuarially determined contribution		 24,771	 50,547		84,344	 113,300	 57,432
Contribution deficiency (excess)		\$ (9,289)	\$ (18,977)	\$		\$ (67,109)	\$
Covered payroll		\$ 619,296	\$ 1,263,675	\$	2,223,741	\$ 2,832,489	\$ 2,960,412
Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll		4.00%	4.00%		3.79%	4.00%	1.94%
Metro Plan	 2014	 2015	 2016		2017	 2018	 2019
Actuarial Determined Contributions (ADC)	\$ 41,059	\$ 69,986	\$ 70,794	\$	74,555	\$ 69,746	\$ 90,785
Contributions in relation to the actuarially determined contribution	 41,059	 69,986	 70,794	_	74,555	 69,746	 90,785
Contribution deficiency (excess)	\$ 	\$ 	\$ 	\$		\$ 	\$
Covered payroll	\$ 239,873	\$ 389,092	\$ 456,441	\$	604,173	\$ 565,203	\$ 735,697
Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll	17.117%	17.987%	15.510%		12.340%	12.340%	12.340%

* In fiscal year 2019, STEM placed the actuarially determined contribution rate (1.94) of covered payroll into the pension plan and placed 2.06 percent 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 2017, the following assumptions were changed: decreased inflation rate from 3.00 percent to 2.50 percent; decreased the investment rate of return from 7.50 percent to 7.25; decreased the cost-of-living adjustment from 2.50 percent to 2.25 percent; decreased salary growth graded ranges from an average of 4.25 percent to an average of 4.00 percent; and modified mortality assumptions.

OTHER INFORMATION

STEM PREPARATORY ACADEMY SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS AND STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019

Program Name/Grantor	CFDA <u>Number</u>	Contract <u>Number</u>	Expenditures
Federal Awards			
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION: Passed through Tennessee Department of Education and Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools			
Title I, Part A Cluster			
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010	N/A	\$ 364,159
Title III Emerging Immigrant Education Program	84.365	N/A	27,600
Title II Part A Improving Teacher Quality State Grants	84.367	N/A	24,246
Special Education Cluster (IDEA)			
Special Education - Grants to States	84.027	N/A	136,071
Total U.S. Department of Education			552,076
Total Federal Awards			552,076
State Financial Assistance			
TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION:			
Basic Education Program	N/A	N/A	209,000
High Quality Charter School Facilities Program Grant	N/A	N/A	200,000
Passed through Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools			
Basic Education Program	N/A	N/A	10,221,397
Total State Awards			10,630,397
Total Federal and State Awards			<u>\$ 11,182,473</u>

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.

See independent auditor's report.

STEM PREPARATORY ACADEMY SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN LONG-TERM DEBT BY INDIVIDUAL ISSUE JUNE 30, 2019

Description of Indebtedness		Original Amount of Issue	Interest Rate	Date of Issue	Last Maturity Date		utstanding 7/1/2018	Issued During Period		ring During		Forgiven During Period			utstanding /30/2019
NOTES PAYABLE															
Payable through General Purpose School Fund															
Construction Loan through Pathway Lending	\$	629,641	4.75%	07/02/2013	10/01/2020	\$	228,350	\$	-	\$	228,350	\$	-	\$	-
Construction Loan through Pathway Lending		225,000	4.75%	04/17/2014	05/01/2021		109,469		-		109,469		-		-
Construction Loan through Pathway Lending		650,000	5.00%	06/09/2015	06/01/2020		273,467		-		136,434		-		137,033
Construction Loan through Pathway Lending		100,000	2.00%	06/09/2015	06/10/2020		47,817		-		20,279		-		27,538
Construction Loan through Pathway Lending		2,800,000	4.75%	07/22/2016	12/01/2026		2,459,572		-		240,076		-		2,219,496
Construction Loan through Pathway Lending		900,000	4.75%	07/25/2017	01/01/2027		836,279		-		180,664		-		655,615
Construction Loan through Pathway Lending		720,000	5.15%	06/01/2018	06/01/2025		423,147		272,152		91,084		-		604,215
Note Payable through Pinnacle Bank		400,000	4.25%	06/28/2016	06/28/2021		249,822		-		80,005		-		169,817
Total Notes Payable						\$	4,627,923	\$	272,152	\$	1,086,361	\$	-	\$	3,813,714
LINE-OF-CREDIT Payable through General Purpose School Fund	¢	225 000	5 250/ 5 50/	07/17/2015	05/25/2020	¢		¢		¢		¢		¢	
Line-of-credit through Pinnacle Bank	\$	325,000	5.25% - 5.5%	06/16/2015	05/25/2020	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-

See independent auditor's report.

SCHEDULE OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES BY SCHOOL STEM PREPARATORY ACADEMY MIDDLE SCHOOL GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS JUNE 30, 2019

	 General Purpose School Fund		Federal and State Grants Fund	Contr	ricted ibution und	Total Governmental Funds		
ASSETS								
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 653,250	\$	-	\$	-	\$	653,250	
Receivables	12,081		11,318		-		23,399	
Due from other funds	11,318		-		-		11,318	
Other current assets	39,439		-		-		39,439	
Restricted Asset:								
TCRS Stabilization Reserve Trust	 35,180		-	_	-		35,180	
Total assets	\$ 751,268	\$	11,318	\$		\$	762,586	
LIABILITIES								
Accounts payable	\$ 368,819	\$	-	\$	-	\$	368,819	
Accrued expenditures	79,118		-		-		79,118	
Due to other funds	 -		11,318		-		11,318	
Total liabilities	 447,937	_	11,318		-		459,255	
FUND BALANCES								
Nonspendable	39,439		-		-		39,439	
Unassigned	263,892		-		-		263,892	
Total fund balances	 303,331				_		303,331	
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of)- 2 -)	
resources and fund balances	\$ 751,268	\$	11,318	\$		\$	762,586	

See independent auditor's report and notes to schedules.

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

JUNE 30, 2019

	General Purpose School Fund		 Federal and State Grants Fund	Contri	ricted ibution 1nd	Gov	Total rernmental Funds
ASSETS							
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	585,020	\$ -	\$	-	\$	585,020
Receivables		10,819	10,135		-		20,954
Due from other funds		10,135	-		-		10,135
Other current assets Restricted Asset:		33,200	-		-		33,200
TCRS Stabilization Reserve Trust		31,505	 _				31,505
Total assets	\$	670,679	\$ 10,135	\$	-	\$	680,814
LIABILITIES							
Accounts payable	\$	330,297	\$ -	\$	-	\$	330,297
Accrued expenditures		70,854	-		-		70,854
Due to other funds		-	 10,135		-		10,135
Total liabilities		401,151	 10,135				411,286
FUND BALANCES							
Nonspendable		33,200	-		-		33,200
Unassigned		236,328	 -		-		236,328
Total fund balances		269,528	 		-		269,528
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources and fund balances	\$	670,679	\$ 10,135	\$	-	\$	680,814

See independent auditor's report and notes to schedules.

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES BY SCHOOL STEM PREPARATORY ACADEMY MIDDLE SCHOOL GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019

		General Purpose School Fund	 Federal and State Grants Fund	estricted ntribution Fund	Total Governmental Funds		
REVENUES							
Contributions	\$	151,169	\$ -	\$ 14,250	\$	165,419	
District funding		5,402,969	-	-		5,402,969	
Federal and state grants		-	588,989	-		588,989	
Other income		60,163	 -	 -		60,163	
Total revenues		5,614,301	 588,989	 14,250		6,217,540	
EXPENDITURES							
Current:							
Instructional		102,614	-	-		102,614	
Occupancy		487,068	-	-		487,068	
Office		106,178	-	-		106,178	
Organizational development		40,850	-	-		40,850	
Other		80,772	-	-		80,772	
Professional services and fees		558,911	-	14,250		573,161	
Employee compensation		3,259,936	377,289	-		3,637,225	
Staff development		50,493	-	-		50,493	
Transportation		492,681	-	-		492,681	
Debt Service							
Principal		408,763	-	-		408,763	
Interest		37,861	-	-		37,861	
Capital outlay		626,392	211,700	-		838,092	
Total expenditures		6,252,519	 588,989	 14,250		6,855,758	
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):							
Transfers out		(835,800)	-	-		(835,800)	
Issuance of debt		750,010	-	-		750,010	
Total other financing sources		(85,790)	 -	 -		(85,790)	
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES		(724,008)	-	-		(724,008)	
FUND BALANCES, June 30, 2018		1,027,339	 <u> </u>	 		1,027,339	
FUND BALANCES, June 30, 2019	<u>\$</u>	303,331	\$ 	\$ 	\$	303,331	

See independent auditor's report and notes to schedules

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES BY SCHOOL STEM PREPARATORY ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019

	Purpose an School C		Federal nd State Grants Fund	estricted atribution Fund	Go	Total vernmental Funds	
REVENUES							
Contributions	\$ 150,970	\$	-	\$	14,250	\$	165,220
District funding	4,818,428		-		-		4,818,428
Federal and state grants	-		372,087		-		372,087
Other income	85,534		-		-		85,534
Total revenues	 5,054,932		372,087		14,250		5,441,269
EXPENDITURES							
Current:							
Instructional	210,132		-		-		210,132
Occupancy	449,152		-		-		449,152
Office	106,854		-		-		106,854
Organizational development	38,101		-		-		38,101
Other	108,390		-		-		108,390
Professional services and fees	481,432		-		14,250		495,682
Employee compensation	2,762,038		174,787		-		2,936,825
Staff development	53,539		-		-		53,539
Transportation	489,301		-		-		489,301
Debt Service							
Principal	819,485		-		-		819,485
Interest	230,112		-		-		230,112
Capital outlay	 1,194,267		197,300		-		1,391,567
Total expenditures	 6,942,803		372,087		14,250		7,329,140
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES:							
Transfers in	835,800		-		-		835,800
Issuance of debt	 1,022,162		-		-		1,022,162
Total other financing sources	 1,857,962						1,857,962
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	(29,909)		-		-		(29,909)
FUND BALANCES, June 30, 2018	 299,437						299,437
FUND BALANCES, June 30, 2019	\$ 269,528	\$	_	\$		\$	269,528

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, 2019

As of June 30, 2019, 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

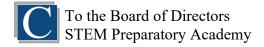
We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental 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, 2019, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise STEM's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated March 5, 2020.

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) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of 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.



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 determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests 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.

Molslin, PLLC

Nashville, Tennessee March 5, 2020

STEM PREPARATORY ACADEMY SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS

None reported.

PRIOR YEAR AUDIT FINDINGS

No prior audit findings.