

2024

Hernando County Education Direct
Support Organization, Inc.

Financial Statements and
Independent Auditor's Report

June 30, 2024 and 2023

PURVIS GRAY
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AND
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

**HERNANDO COUNTY EDUCATION DIRECT
SUPPORT ORGANIZATION, INC.
BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA**

JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors
Hernando County Education Direct Support Organization, Inc.
Brooksville, Florida

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the business-type activity and major fund of the Hernando County Education Direct Support Organization, Inc. (the Organization) as of and for the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Organization's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, based on our audit, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the business-type activity and major fund of the Organization as of June 30, 2024, and the respective changes in financial position, and cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Organization and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

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

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

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To the Board of Directors
Hernando County Education Direct Support Organization, Inc.
Brooksville, Florida

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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

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

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

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

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required

To the Board of Directors
Hernando County Education Direct Support Organization, Inc.
Brooksville, Florida

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated November 13, 2024, on our consideration of the Organization's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Organization's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



November 13, 2024
Ocala, Florida

**HERNANDO COUNTY EDUCATION DIRECT SUPPORT ORGANIZATION, INC.
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023**

This section of the Hernando County Education Direct Support Organization, Inc.'s (the Organization) annual financial report presents our discussion and analysis of financial performance for the fiscal periods ended on June 30, 2024 and 2023. Please read it in conjunction with the preceding Independent Auditor's Report and financial statements following this section.

OVERVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

This annual report consists of a series of financial statements. The Statements of Net Position and the Statements of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Fund Net Position provide information about activities and present a long-term view of financial position. The Statements of Cash Flows provide information regarding net cash from (used in) various activities.

The financial statements also include notes that explain some of the information in the financial statements and provide more detailed data. These notes are an integral part of these financial statements and should be read as a part of the financial statements in order for the reader to have a clear understanding of activities and performance.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- The Organization's overall net position totaled \$1,661,833 as of the year ended June 30, 2024, as compared to \$1,493,334 as of the year ended June 30, 2023.
- Unrestricted net position totaled \$7,624 and \$(7,968) for the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively. These funds represent monies available to provide academic program support to students, teachers, and staff in Hernando County Public Schools, as well as general and administrative support. The decline in unrestricted is related to several restricted programs having overages related to non-cash items (such as scholarships, inventory, etc.).
- Restricted net position totaled \$1,625,502 and \$1,469,029 for the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively. These funds represent monies which have been limited by donors for a specific purpose.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

	2024	2023
Current Assets	\$ 1,778,301	\$ 1,138,607
Capital Assets	28,707	32,273
Other Assets	755,892	411,525
Total Assets	2,562,900	1,582,405
Current Liabilities	238,092	-
Total Liabilities	238,092	-
Deferred Inflows	662,975	89,071
Total Deferred Inflows	662,975	89,071
Net Position		
Net Investment in Capital Assets	28,707	32,273
Restricted	1,625,502	1,469,029
Unrestricted	7,624	(7,968)
Net Position at End of Year	\$ 1,661,833	\$ 1,493,334

HERNANDO COUNTY EDUCATION DIRECT SUPPORT ORGANIZATION, INC.
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023

In comparing 2024 activity to 2023 activity, we note the following:

Total assets increased by 62%, or \$980,495.

There was a net increase in total liabilities of \$238,092.

Total net position increased by \$168,499.

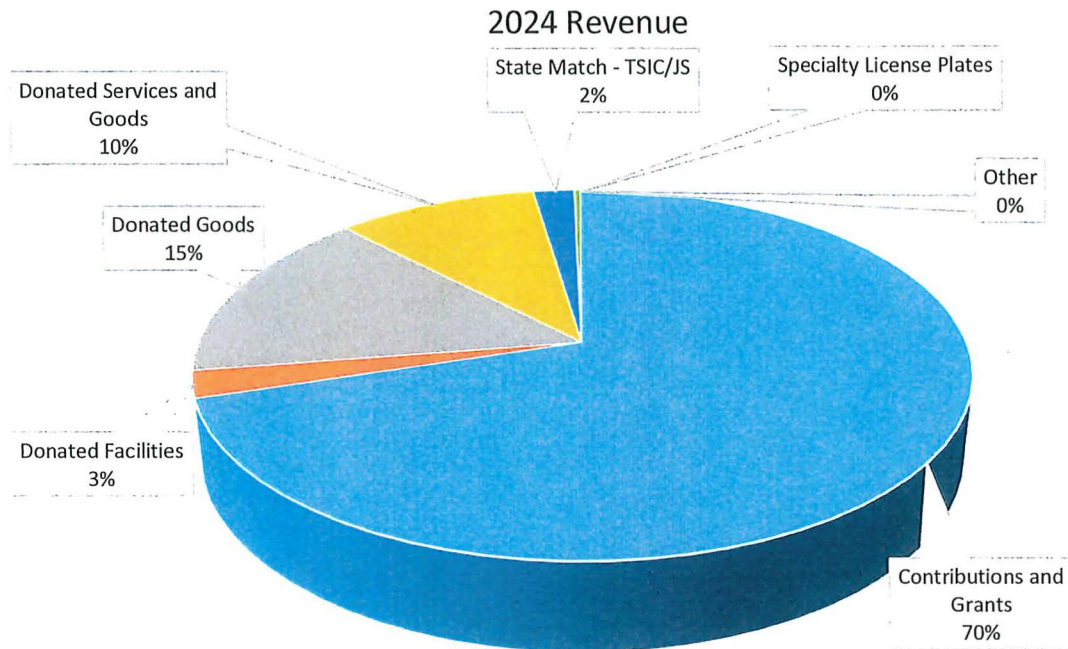
CHANGES IN NET POSITION

	2024	2023
Revenue:		
Contributions and Grants	\$ 1,282,120	\$ 833,455
Donated Facilities	43,400	43,400
Donated Goods	277,158	464,882
Donated Services and Goods	180,386	126,324
State Match - TSIC/JS	37,232	55,324
Specialty License Plates	5,491	5,091
Other	70	4,408
Total Revenue	<u>1,825,857</u>	<u>1,532,884</u>
Expenses:		
Grant Related Salary		
Salary Expense	317,348	327,785
Scholarship Awards	57,751	38,150
Grants to Schools	223,051	251,166
TSIC Scholarship Payouts	53,829	14,253
Insurance	6,865	7,560
Bank Charges	451	4,124
Events and Fundraising	76,363	73,795
Memberships and Licenses	5,826	5,861
Janitorial	-	2,786
Program Support	61,282	25,959
Professional Fees	18,398	17,945
Postage and Freight	14	426
Recognition Awards	13,864	12,425
Training	1,942	1,519
Supplies	72,668	36,265
Computer Related Expenses	-	851
Advertising and Marketing	12,139	5,773
Travel Expenses	6,023	7,667
Miscellaneous	3,419	11,841
Donated Facilities	43,400	43,400
Grants to Teachers - Tools 4 Schools	455,788	276,950
Repairs and Maintenance	4,587	7,816
Pledges Receivable - Uncollectible Accounts Expense	-	758
Depreciation Expense	3,566	3,387
Donated Services and Goods	218,784	110,324
Total Expenses	<u>1,657,358</u>	<u>1,288,786</u>
Change in Net Position	168,499	244,098
Net Position at Beginning of Year	<u>1,493,334</u>	<u>1,249,236</u>
Net Position at End of Year	<u>\$ 1,661,833</u>	<u>\$ 1,493,334</u>

HERNANDO COUNTY EDUCATION DIRECT SUPPORT ORGANIZATION, INC.
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023

Significant differences between 2024 and 2023 revenues and expenses are discussed below:

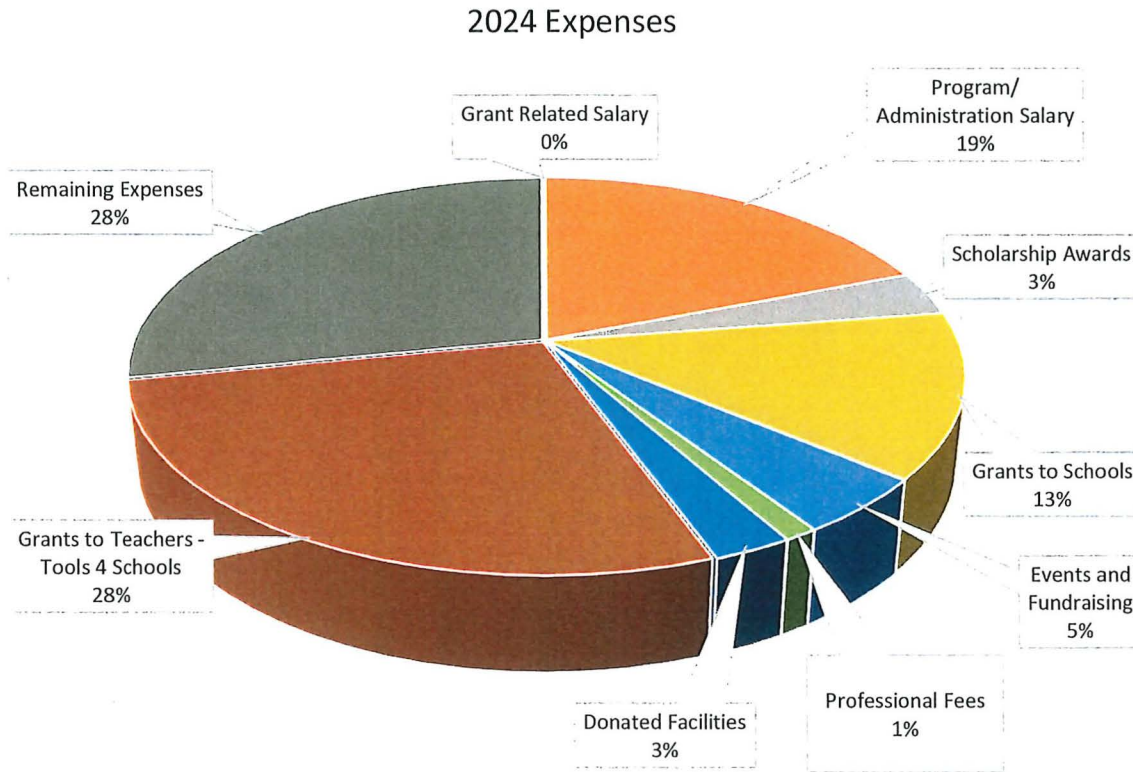
REVENUES



Operating Revenue – Overall Operating Revenue increased by 19.1%, or \$292,973. This overall increase was related to more fundraising and annual campaign efforts that overshadowed the reduction in donated goods – since the foundation did not hold a book drive during the current fiscal year.

HERNANDO COUNTY EDUCATION DIRECT SUPPORT ORGANIZATION, INC.
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023

EXPENSES



Program Expenses – Overall Expenses increased by 28.6%, or \$368,572. The overall decrease was related to higher donated goods for both the recognition events, supplies and program support, and Tools 4 Schools.

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

This section of the Organization's annual financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the Organization's finances. Questions about any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to the Hernando County Education Foundation at 900 Emerson Rd., Brooksville, Florida 34601.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**STATEMENTS OF NET POSITION
AS OF JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023
HERNANDO COUNTY EDUCATION DIRECT SUPPORT ORGANIZATION, INC.
BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA**

ASSETS

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Assets		
Current Assets:		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,498,662	\$ 641,633
Pledges Receivable	21,962	45,832
Contributions Receivable	7,719	13,228
Take Stock in Children Receivable	7,449	6,768
Prepaid Expenses	5,528	5,029
Inventory - Tools 4 Schools	193,327	355,459
Inventory - Operation Cinderella and Other Donated Items	43,654	70,658
Total Current Assets	<u>1,778,301</u>	<u>1,138,607</u>
Capital Assets:		
Vehicles and Equipment	35,660	35,660
Accumulated Depreciation	(6,953)	(3,387)
Total Capital Assets	<u>28,707</u>	<u>32,273</u>
Other Assets:		
Construction in Progress (Air Gun Range - On Behalf of School District)	336,097	-
Take Stock in Children Scholarship (Contract Value)	354,667	334,668
Jump Start (Contract Value)	65,128	76,857
Total Other Assets	<u>755,892</u>	<u>411,525</u>
Total Assets	<u>2,562,900</u>	<u>1,582,405</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET POSITION

Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	15,001	-
Construction and Retainage Payable	221,140	-
Accrued Payroll and Related Expenses	1,951	-
Total Liabilities	<u>238,092</u>	<u>-</u>
Deferred Inflows		
Unearned Revenues - Air Gun Range	662,975	89,071
Total Deferred Inflows	<u>662,975</u>	<u>89,071</u>
Net Position		
Net Investment in Capital Assets	28,707	32,273
Restricted:		
Air Gun Range	336,097	-
Tools 4 Schools	193,327	355,459
Operation Cinderella	43,654	70,658
Scholarships	379,077	322,375
Take Stock in Children	354,667	341,435
Jump Start	65,128	76,857
Classroom Grants/School Donations	253,552	302,245
Unrestricted	7,624	(7,968)
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 1,661,833</u>	<u>\$ 1,493,334</u>

See accompanying notes.

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023
HERNANDO COUNTY EDUCATION DIRECT SUPPORT ORGANIZATION, INC.
BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Receipts from Contributions	\$ 1,855,607	\$ 797,463
Receipts from Government Grants and Match	5,491	260,858
Other Receipts	40,448	4,408
Payments to Employees for Services	(315,397)	(339,304)
Payments to Vendors	(58,392)	(233,207)
Payments for Scholarships Awarded	(111,580)	(63,769)
Payments for School Grants	(223,051)	(251,166)
Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Operating Activities	<u>1,193,126</u>	<u>175,283</u>
Cash Flows from Capital and Related Financing Activities		
Purchase of Capital Additions - On Behalf of School District (Air Gun Range)	(336,097)	(7,160)
Net Cash Used for Capital and Related Financing Activities	<u>(336,097)</u>	<u>(7,160)</u>
Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents	857,029	168,123
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Year	<u>641,633</u>	<u>473,510</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year	<u><u>\$ 1,498,662</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 641,633</u></u>
<u>Reconciliation of Operating Income to Net Cash Used in (Provided by) Operating Activities</u>		
Operating Income (Loss)	\$ 168,499	\$ 244,098
Adjustments to Reconcile Operating Income to Net Cash		
Provided by (Used in) by Operating Activities:		
Donated Items - Inventory and Scholarships	234,729	(248,121)
Depreciation	3,566	3,387
Decrease (Increase) in:		
Pledges, Contributions, and Take Stock in Children Receivables	28,698	144,944
Prepaid Expenses	(499)	1,526
Inventory - Operation Cinderella and Tools 4 Schools	(27,894)	(5,631)
Scholarships Purchased - Take Stock in Children	(25,969)	(25,619)
Increase (Decrease) in:		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Payroll Expenses	16,952	(28,372)
Construction and Retainage Payable	221,140	-
Unearned Revenues	573,904	89,071
Total Adjustments	<u>1,024,627</u>	<u>(68,815)</u>
Net Cash Used in (Provided by) Operating Activities	<u><u>\$ 1,193,126</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 175,283</u></u>
<u>Supplemental Information</u>		
Non-Cash Donations:		
Donated Inventory (Tools 4 Schools and Operation Cinderella)	\$ 494,187	\$ 464,882
Donated Facilities	43,400	43,400
Donated Goods for Annual Campaign	180,386	143,524
State Match - Jump Start	40,420	51,238
State Match - Take Stock in Children	2,872	4,086

See accompanying notes.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
HERNANDO COUNTY EDUCATION DIRECT SUPPORT ORGANIZATION, INC.
BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA

Take Stock in Children – the Organization, through its donors for the Take Stock in Children program, purchases two-year or four-year scholarship contracts from the Florida Prepaid College Foundation. The State of Florida, through the Florida Prepaid College Foundation, matches, dollar-for-dollar, the cost of these scholarship contracts purchases and holds the full value of the scholarship contracts, including changes in the scholarship contract value, on behalf of the Organization. In addition, the Organization requests reimbursement from the program for certain operational costs.

Jump Start – the Organization, through its donors for the Jump Start program, purchased scholarships at a 2 for 1 ratio with the state for use as of August 2023. The program encourages children to start a secondary education program immediately after high school by making the funds available.

Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting, and Financial Statement Presentation

The financial statements of the Organization have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the standard-setting body for governmental accounting and financial reporting.

The Organization prepares its financial statements using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Under the accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when incurred.

Fund Accounting

The financial statements are presented in accordance with principles of fund accounting, whereby revenues and expenses are classified into funds according to specified purposes. Currently, the Organization has one operating fund, which contains restricted and unrestricted components. The Organization's operating account includes unrestricted and restricted resources, representing the portion of expendable and non-expendable funds that are available for support of operations and funds available for use in accordance with specific restrictions, respectively. When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the Organization's policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources as they are needed.

Income Taxes

The Organization is exempt from income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Accordingly, the financial statements do not reflect a provision for income taxes.

The Organization files income tax returns in the U.S. federal jurisdictions.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

For purposes of the statements of cash flows, the Organization considers all highly liquid investments purchased with a maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

Classification of Revenues and Expenses

The Organization classifies its revenues and expenses as operating or non-operating. Operating revenues include the primary activities of contributions from donors, program revenues, special events, and other activities. Operating expenses include the primary activities of grants to schools, salaries, fundraising, and other expenses. There were no non-operating revenues or expenses.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
HERNANDO COUNTY EDUCATION DIRECT SUPPORT ORGANIZATION, INC.
BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA

Accounting Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP 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.

Unearned Revenue

The Organization received advanced funds for a JROTC Air Gun Range prior to fiscal year-end. As of June 30, 2024 and 2023, unearned revenue was \$662,975 and \$89,071, respectively.

Revenue Recognition

All contributions are considered available for the Organization's general programs unless specifically restricted by the donor. The Organization recognizes gifts of cash or pledges receivable as revenue when all eligibility requirements have been met. Donations of other non-monetary items are recorded as revenue based on their acquisition value at the date of the gift.

Net Position

The Organization's net position is classified in three components. Net investment in capital assets consists of capital assets net of accumulated depreciation. Restricted net position is non-capital assets that must be used for a particular purpose, as specified by grantors or contributors external to the Organization. Unrestricted net position is the remaining net amount of assets that do not meet the definition of investment in capital assets, net of related debt or restricted net position.

Subsequent Events

The Organization has evaluated events and transactions for potential recognition or disclosure in the financial statements through November 13, 2024, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

Note 2 - Assets Held by Others

Take Stock in Children Scholarship Program Overview

The Organization, through its donors for the Take Stock in Children program, will purchase two-year or four-year scholarship contracts from the Florida Prepaid College Foundation. The State of Florida, through the Florida Prepaid College Foundation, matches, dollar-for-dollar, the cost of these scholarship contracts purchases and holds the full value of the scholarship contracts, including changes in the scholarship contracts' contract value, on behalf of the Organization.

The Organization exercises control over these scholarship contracts by selecting students from Hernando County School District (the District) to participate in the Take Stock in Children program. Upon completion of the program and graduation from high school, the full contract value of these scholarship contracts are provided to the students for their college education. Any unused scholarships may be reinvested in new scholarship contracts to be provided to new students or existing students.

Contract Value

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	\$ 354,667	\$ 334,668

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
HERNANDO COUNTY EDUCATION DIRECT SUPPORT ORGANIZATION, INC.
BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA

Pursuant to Section 320.08056 of the Florida Statutes, the Organization may not use specialty license plate revenue, or any interest earned from those fees, for commercial or for-profit activities, or for general or administrative expenses, except as authorized by Florida Statutes.

Note 5 - Concentration of Credit Risk

Demand Deposits

The Organization maintains demand deposit accounts with a financial institution in which funds are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). At times throughout the year, the funds held in these accounts may exceed FDIC limits.

Note 6 - Related-Party Transactions

Several of the board members are employed by the District or corporations that donate or provide goods to the Organization.

The District provides donated services and payments for services to the Organization, including office space, information technology, utilities, and financial audit and tax preparation. The value of the donated office space for the 2024 fiscal year was \$43,400, and the amount recognized for 2023 was \$43,400.

Note 7 - Commitments

The Organization received a commitment from a community member to fund the construction of a JROTC Air Gun Range at Central High School. The total anticipated project costs are \$1,000,000. As of June 30, 2024 and 2023, the Organization received \$910,001 and \$89,071, respectively, to pay for anticipated project costs and incurred costs of \$336,097 and \$0, respectively.

**ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS OF REPORT PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH
GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS, ISSUED BY THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL
OF THE UNITED STATES**

**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
Hernando County Education Direct Support Organization, Inc.
Brooksville, Florida

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 business-type activity and major fund of Hernando County Education Direct Support Organization, Inc. (the Organization) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Organization's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated November 13, 2024.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Organization's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization'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 and, therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. We identified a certain deficiency in internal control that we consider to be a significant deficiency:

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To the Board of Directors
Hernando County Education Direct Support Organization, Inc.
Brooksville, Florida

**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***

- **2014-1 Segregation of Duties**—Currently, the Organization's staff consists of a few individuals that have complete access to all accounting transactions, including the receipting and disbursement processes and cash and account reconciliation processes. These issues create a deficiency in internal controls such that there is a lack of proper segregation of duties in the accounting function.

This issue is common with small organizations of this size. It is our understanding that the Organization has an audit and finance committee that was formed to oversee accounting transactions and financial statements and reports. Additional oversight is provided by the Board of Directors and Executive Committee.

We recommend that the Organization continue this oversight to mitigate this condition.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

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

Management's Response to the Above Significant Deficiency in Internal Control

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on management's response to the finding identified in our audit and described above. Management's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization'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 Organization's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



November 13, 2024
Ocala, Florida



November 14, 2024

Chief Executive Officer

Tammy Brinker

President

Kandice Christmas

Secretary/Treasurer

Debbye Warrell

Past President

Debra Myers

To: HCEF Board of Director's

Re: Independent Auditor's Report

Dear Board of Director's,

The following is managements responses and recommendations to the July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024, Independent Auditor's Report:

Board of Directors

Lisa Becker

Michael Gunther

Ben Prescott

Jarvis Upshaw

Fred Weber

Joe Pastore

Burton Melaugh

Jessica Zimmerman

Sharon Twyman

Michael O'Brien

Tori Hunt

Justen Early (Academy of Teachers)

Ray Pinder (Superintendent)
(School Board and Ex Officio)

Linda Prescott (School Board)
School Board Member Liaison
(School Board and Ex Officio)

Gus Guadagnino
School Board Member Alternate
(School Board and Ex Officio)

Ray Mooney (Ex Officio)

2014-1 Segregation of Duties – In response, we note that in 2014, HCEF established a Finance and Audit Committee specifically tasked with monthly reviews of the organization's financials. This committee has diligently overseen all aspects of the organization's accounting and financial activities. While segregation of duties remains a challenge for many smaller organizations, we are confident that the continued involvement of the Board and Finance and Audit Committee provides the necessary oversight to ensure financial integrity and accountability.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me any time at 352-797-7313 ext. 165.

Tax ID: 59-3031959

Sincerely,

Tammy Brinker

Tammy Brinker
Chief Executive Officer
Hernando County Education Foundation
brinker_t@hcsb.k12.fl.us
(Phone) 352-797-7313 (Ext.0)
(Fax) 352-797-7177



The Hernando County Education Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to creating partnerships that advance student achievement and promote excellence within Hernando County Public Education.

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