

LAKE COUNTY, OHIO
NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016

NOTE J – DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (Continued)

OHIO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM (OPERS Continued)

OPERS provides retirement, disability, survivor and death benefits and annual cost of living adjustments to members of the traditional pension plan. Authority to establish and amend benefits is provided by Chapter 145 of the Ohio Revised Code. OPERS issues a stand-alone financial report that includes financial statements, required supplementary information and detailed information about OPERS' fiduciary net position that may be obtained by visiting <https://www.opers.org/financial/reports.shtml>, by writing to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System, 277 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-4642, or by calling (800) 222-7377.

Under the combined plan, employer contributions are invested by the retirement system to provide a formula retirement benefit similar to the traditional plan benefit. Member contributions, whose investment is self-directed by the member, accumulate retirement assets in a manner similar to the member directed plan.

Senate Bill (SB) 343 was enacted into law with an effective date of January 7, 2013. In the legislation, members were categorized into three groups with varying provisions of the law applicable to each group. The following table provides age and service requirements for retirement and the retirement formula applied to final average salary (FAS) for the three member groups under the traditional plan as per the reduced benefits adopted by SB 343 (see OPERS CAFR referenced above for additional information):

Group A Eligible to retire prior to January 7, 2013 or five years after January 7, 2013	Group B 20 years of service credit prior to January 7, 2013 or eligible to retire ten years after January 7, 2013	Group C Members not in other Groups and members hired on or after January 7, 2013
State and Local	State and Local	State and Local
Age and Service Requirements: Age 60 with 60 months of service credit or Age 55 with 25 years of service credit	Age and Service Requirements: Age 60 with 60 months of service credit or Age 55 with 25 years of service credit	Age and Service Requirements: Age 57 with 25 years of service credit or Age 62 with 5 years of service credit
Formula: 2.2% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 30 years and 2.5% for service years in excess of 30	Formula: 2.2% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 30 years and 2.5% for service years in excess of 30	Formula: 2.2% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 35 years and 2.5% for service years in excess of 35

Final average salary (FAS) represents the average of the three highest years of earnings over a member's career for Groups A and B. Group C is based on the average of the five highest years of earnings over a member's career.

Members who retire before meeting the age and years of service credit requirement for unreduced benefits receive a percentage reduction in the benefit amount.

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OHIO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM (OPERS Continued)

When a benefit recipient has received benefits for 12 months, an annual cost of living adjustment (COLA) is provided. This COLA is calculated on the base retirement benefit at the date of retirement and is not compounded. For those retiring prior to January 7, 2013, the COLA will continue to be 3 percent simple annual COLA. For those retiring subsequent to January 7, 2013, beginning in calendar year 2019, the COLA will be based on the average percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index, capped at 3 percent.

Funding Policy – The Ohio Revised Code (ORC) provides statutory authority for member and employer contributions as follows:

	State and Local
2016 Statutory Maximum Contribution Rates	
Employer	14.0%
Employee	10.0%
2016 Actual Contribution Rates	
Employer:	
Pension	12.0%
Post-Employment Health Care Benefits	2.0%
Total Employer	14.0%
Employee	10.0%

Employer contribution rates are actuarially determined and are expressed as a percentage of covered payroll. The County's contractual required contribution was \$9,675,706 for 2016. Of this amount, \$194,655 is reported as an intergovernmental payable.

Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred inflows of Resources Related to Pensions

The net pension liability for OPERS was measured as of December 31, 2015, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The County's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the County's share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating entities.