



Rhode Island Student Loan Authority

ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year Ended
June 30, 2016
And Dated
December 31, 2016



RISLA
RHODE ISLAND STUDENT
LOAN AUTHORITY

YOUR GATEWAY TO SUCCESS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. Robert J. Delaney, *Chairman*
Ms. Christine Barnes Jenkins, *Vice-Chairman*
Mr. Robert R. Theroux, *Secretary & Treasurer*
Mr. Seth Magaziner, *General Treasurer, State of RI*
Mr. Daniel Egan
Ms. Sandra Mack

Charles P. Kelley, *Executive Director*

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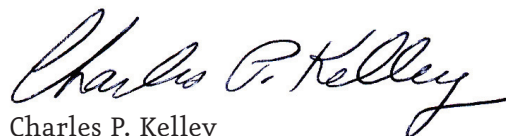
INTRODUCTION

We are pleased to present the 2016 Annual Report for the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority (RISLA). RISLA continues to serve as the leading statewide resource dedicated to student success. Since 1981, we have provided low-cost state-based education loans, free admissions and financial aid assistance through the College Planning Center of Rhode Island (CPCRI), a free internship finder through bRidge.jobs, financial literacy guidance at high schools and colleges throughout the state, a refinancing program for those looking to save on existing student loans, and an exciting new program for employers to assist employees dealing with college debt. Our team is proud to fulfill such an important mission independent of any funding or appropriation from the State of Rhode Island.

For 35 years, RISLA's core focus has been on providing affordable solutions to pay for a higher education. Our education loans are a lifeline for thousands of Rhode Islanders who seek the security of affordable and predictable loan options. Once again, we reduced the interest rates on our loans and eliminated fees, resulting in one of the lowest fixed rate education loans in the country. The RISLA Student Loan is a low fixed rate loan for students and parents looking for assistance paying for college with rates as low as 3.99% with auto pay. The RISLA Parent Loan has a fixed interest rate as low as 4.74% with auto pay, and our student loan refinancing program has fixed rates as low as 3.49% with auto pay.

RISLA's dedication to student success does not end with our low-cost education loan programs. We are committed to helping students with an array of free services like admission and financial aid assistance through the CPCRI, where over 17,868 students and families received one-on-one counseling from our team this year. Our professional staff continues to provide financial literacy outreach at high schools and colleges throughout the state to promote smart borrowing decisions. Our bRidge.jobs initiative matches area businesses with student interns. We are also proud of a new initiative where local employers can offer our services to help their employees find the best solutions for student debt.

This report highlights a host of initiatives and services that RISLA was proud to offer in 2016. These efforts are a direct result of the hard work and commitment of the employees at RISLA and the CPCRI. These efforts are also made possible through the leadership and direction of our volunteer board of directors, including Chairman Robert Delaney, Vice Chair Christine Jenkins, Secretary/Treasurer Robert Theroux, Sandra Mack, Daniel Egan, and General Treasurer Seth Magaziner.



Charles P. Kelley
Executive Director



Noel Simpson
Deputy Director & Chief Financial Officer

HIGHLIGHTS 2016

In 2016 the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority continued to fulfill its goal of making higher education more accessible and affordable for Rhode Islanders. RISLA embarked on several initiatives throughout the year, leading to a host of accomplishments. The highlights include:

RISLA Offers \$55 Million in Safe, Fixed-Rate Loans in 2016

During the 2016/2017 academic year, RISLA offered \$55 million in loans to students and families. The program was made available to Rhode Island residents and students attending college in Rhode Island, with ZERO origination fees on 2016/2017 loans. The rate students received depended on the repayment option, not on a credit score. RISLA's immediate repayment option features a ten-year term and represents the lowest cost option with a fixed rate as low as 3.99% with auto pay. The deferred repayment option features a 15-year term and allows students to defer their loan payments until 6 months after they leave school and offers a fixed rate as low as 5.74% with auto pay. These rates made Rhode Island's education loan offerings some of the best in the country.

RISLA offered a Parent Loan program for 2016/2017, featuring a 10-year loan at a fixed rate as low as 4.74% with auto pay. The Parent Loan carried no prepayment penalties and no origination fees. The agency also offered a student loan refinancing option with a fixed interest rate as low as 3.49% with auto pay. Refinancing loan options were offered with terms of 5, 10, or 15 years, with the ability to refinance between \$7,500 and \$250,000. The refinancing program helps make repaying education loans easier, and is available to students regardless of their residency or if they attended schools outside of Rhode Island.

RISLA Launches New Tool to Help Employees Conquer Student Debt

RISLA launched a new initiative in September to help graduates and parents of college students conquer their student debt. The Student Loan Repayment Solutions tool offered by RISLA allows employers to provide a free benefit to their employees which can help them organize, manage, and analyze their education debt, as well as get personalized counseling on how to pay off their college debt. Nationally, employers are realizing that the number one concern that many employees have are their education loans. RISLA's counseling tool helps borrowers understand how to best deal with their education loans for their individual circumstances.

Student Loan Repayment Solutions Tool Unveiled at Warwick Press Event

On September 7th RISLA formally unveiled its Student Loan Repayment Solutions tool for area employers at a news conference at the College Planning Center office in Warwick. The event highlighted that over 70% of the graduates of Rhode Island colleges incur student loan debt. The average student loan debt when they leave college is \$35,000. By offering a free resource to employers for these students, RISLA is working to ease the burden of debt for graduates, while providing

employers an important resource that their employees value. Speaking at the launch event were RISLA Executive Director Charles Kelley, Deputy Director Noel Simpson, General Treasurer Seth Magaziner, State Representative Eileen Naughton, and Steven Loffredo from local accounting firm KLR. The event received wide media attention, including an extended segment on WJAR Channel 10 news.

bRidge jobs Continues to Match Students with Local Internships

2016 saw continued growth in RISLA's efforts to assist local students in finding paid internships at area businesses. Called "bRidge.jobs," the program is run by RISLA staff through outreach programs to area schools and employers, complemented by an easy-to-use website where internship opportunities are posted and searchable by interested students. The program has also developed an employer guide to assist in structuring successful internship programs. The objective of the program is to increase the work readiness, knowledge, and skills of the current and emerging workforce in the state, while giving students and adults greater opportunities to remain in Rhode Island and contribute to the state's economic growth. bRidge.Jobs is a partnership of the Governor's Workforce Board, the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of RI, the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce, and the RI Partnership Project.

RISLA's Commitment to Financial Literacy

RISLA continues its efforts to offer free online tools and financial literacy seminars to students from all over Rhode Island. The financial literacy resources include detailed overviews on topics like debt management, how to pay for a college, understanding of general financial terms, basic budgeting, credit, and much more. RISLA also offers a comprehensive comparison of student loan options, including a review of RISLA's education loans versus federal education loans. RISLA and its board remain committed to the principle of borrowing responsibly and properly managing finances as an important key to student success.

College Goal Rhode Island

In January, RISLA and the CPCRI were lead participants in College Goal Rhode Island, a series of free statewide events that assists students and families with college financial aid forms. This was the ninth year that RISLA and the CPCRI participated in the event, which provided financial aid specialists in communities throughout the state. The participants in the event included Rhode Island Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, the College Crusade of RI, and the College Advising Corps at Brown University. College Goal Rhode Island is open to all Rhode Islanders, with particular attention given to reaching low income and first-generation college students. Counselors from RISLA and the CPCRI played an integral role in the event's success, which was held at communities throughout the state, including Providence, Central Falls, Woonsocket, East Providence, West Warwick, Middletown, Newport, and Westerly.

College Planning Center Hosts Sixth Annual PawSox College Fair

On September 21st, the CPCRI hosted a major college fair for students throughout the state at McCoy Stadium in Pawtucket. High school students and families participated in the event, which brought together over 100 college representatives from throughout the northeast. The free event allowed attendees to find good matches both academically and financially when searching for a college. The CPCRI gained significant publicity through the PawSox organization and its media partners, Bior and Coast 93.3 for the event. Students who pre-registered for the event were also eligible for a scholarship drawing from the CPCRI.

Sherlock Scholarship Awards

For the thirteenth consecutive year, RISLA was proud to award 25 scholarships to needy Rhode Islanders in the name of the late state representative and former RISLA board member, Paul V. Sherlock. The \$50,000 in scholarships was awarded randomly to qualified students from across Rhode Island at a May 17th ceremony in the State House. The keynote speaker at the event was General Treasurer Seth Magaziner. RISLA Executive Director Charles Kelley and RISLA CFO Noel Simpson also participated as speakers at the event.

Expanded Hours and Outreach for Families at the College Planning Center

In 2016, the CPCRI expanded its hours to better serve the over 17,868 students and families who utilize its services annually. Services offered by the CPCRI staff included assistance with completing the FAFSA application as well as completion of the College Scholarship Service Profile. As always, the CPC's services are free of charge. During the year, the CPCRI staffed a West Bay office at the Warwick Mall, an East Bay office on Metacom Avenue in Bristol, and a Northern Rhode Island office at the Boys & Girls Club of Cumberland. Expanded hours during 2016 included nights and weekend sessions, complemented by the CPCRI's interactive website: www.collegeplanningcenter.org.

RISLA & CPCRI Join First Gentleman on FAFSA Completion Kick-Off Event

Responding to changes in the FAFSA completion process, which includes a new October 1st submission date, RISLA and the CPCRI held a September 1st kick-off event to highlight the new timelines with First Gentleman Andy Moffit. The press event was held at the Providence Career and Technical Academy, and included remarks from Mr. Moffit, Providence Schools Superintendent Christopher Maher, Classical High School Principal Scott Barr, and General Treasurer Seth Magaziner. RISLA and CPCRI staff members were on hand at the event to help seniors obtain their federal student aid identifications.

FAFSA Outreach Events at Local High Schools

The CPCRI offered a series of free outreach events in the fall to assist students completing FAFSA forms. The events were held throughout Rhode Island, including the following schools: Shea High School in Pawtucket, Rogers High School in Newport, Hope High School in Providence, Middletown High School, Central High School in Providence, Classical High School in Providence, Chariho High School in Richmond, The Met School in Providence, and Central Falls High School.

RISLA Joins U.S. Senator Jack Reed for College Aid Workshop

U.S. Senator Jack Reed held his 26th annual College Aid Workshop at the Knight Campus of CCRI on November 21st. RISLA Deputy Director Noel Simpson joined Sen. Reed in the presentation to students and families. College Planning Center of RI Director Stacy Crooks also participated in the program. RISLA has enjoyed a longstanding tradition of working with Senator Reed on his college aid workshops.

Senator Reed Encourages Student to Use the College Planning Center

Senator Reed issued a video from his Washington office in October to remind students and their families about the importance of filing out the FAFSA. In his remarks, he provided a strong endorsement for the free programs of the CPCRI, encouraging students and parents to utilize its services during the financial aid season.

Extensive Media Outreach on Planning for College

During the fall, RISLA's Deputy Director Noel Simpson appeared on a number of media outlets to discuss important topics for students and their families. He appeared on WPRI Channel 12 to discuss issues related to student debt, completion of financial aid forms, and loan options for students and parents. Mr. Simpson also appeared on Channel 12 in a separate segment to highlight missed financial aid opportunities, including millions of dollars in unclaimed financial aid through government programs. He stressed the importance of adhering to deadlines and seeking out opportunities through organizations like RISLA and the CPCRI. Also, making local television appearances was the CPCRI's Assistant Director, Courtney McEntee, who appeared on WJAR Channel 10 to offer back-to-school advice for college planning.

LOOKING AHEAD

At RISLA, we are committed to student success. Success is found in our assistance with helping students and parents find the right school and navigate financial aid requirements from our College Planning Center. Success is also measured in our ability to provide low cost education loans with competitive, fixed rates and the ability to choose from an array of repayment options. We see success in helping students gain important work experience while in school through our highly-regarded bRidge.jobs internship program. We also view success as offering solutions for graduates who have entered the workforce who use our Student Loan Repayment Solutions tool through their employer. Looking ahead to 2017, our team is excited to continue these efforts and be a valuable resource for Rhode Island students and families.

The new year is certain to bring challenges. Our team is working hard to inform borrowers, especially those entering into repayment, on the best ways to move forward. Our guidance includes exploring different payment agreements available on federal student loans, or refinancing private student loans at lower rates. It is widely believed that interest rates on student loan will rise in 2017. We will actively encourage borrowers to lock in at existing lower rates in order to save money.

RISLA is committed to serving as an important solution to the economic growth and vitality of our state. Our bRidge.jobs internship portal is a vital tool in connecting students with employment opportunities. We will continue to assist local companies in setting up paid internship programs, as well as serve as the clearinghouse for all opportunities that are available for student interns. Along with our internship efforts, we are excited to expand our reach further with employers in Rhode Island through our Student Loan Repayment Solutions tool. We recognize the debt burdens students face as they enter the job market, and our free service to employers is a wonderful benefit to help alleviate concerns employees are feeling about their loans.

RISLA is also extremely committed to the CPCRI and its extensive outreach efforts to those seeking higher education. From FAFSA planning sessions, to college fairs, to financial literacy trainings, and our one-on-one counseling, the CPCRI will remain the pre-eminent resource for students and families as they navigate the college planning process.

RISLA has been helping Rhode Islanders achieve their higher education goals for over 35 years. As a non-profit organization, we have gained the trust of our fellow citizens, elected leaders, and our partners at schools throughout the state. We are proud of our track record of helping tens of thousands of students realize their dreams, and look forward to 2017 being our most productive year ever.

SUMMARY OF RISLA PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED

Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016

Rhode Island Fixed Rate Student Loan Program

- RISLA started its Fixed Rate Student Loan Program in 1992 and has continuously offered the program since that time. The program is credit based and features flexible repayment terms, low interest rates and zero fees. The interest rate is fixed for the life of the loan depending on when the student enters into the loan agreement and the repayment option the student chose.

This interest rate is lower than most competitive student loan products including the federal parent and graduate student PLUS Loan.

- On May 18, 2016, RISLA issued Tax Exempt Fixed Rate Student Loan Program Revenue Bonds in the amount of \$55,000,000. The purpose of this bond issue was to fund fixed rate student loans originated in FY 2017.
- RISLA also offers loan programs for the parents of college students and a refinancing loan program that's designed to help student loan repayment borrowers reduce their debt service, loan interest rate and possibly their monthly payment.

RISLA Education Loans

- For the 2016/17 academic year, RISLA offers a 10-year RISLA Student Loan with a fixed rate as low as 3.99% after an auto payment discount of .25% for borrowers who choose an immediate repayment loan. If more time is needed, deferred repayment options are also available, which delays repayment until after the student is out of school. A co-signer release option is available for qualifying borrowers after two years of repayment and meeting specified credit criteria.
- For the 2016/17 academic year, RISLA offers a 10-year college loan for parents with a fixed rate of 4.74% after an auto payment of .25%. There are no origination fees or prepayment penalties.
- RISLA offers a low fixed rate student loan refinancing program to help make repaying private, PLUS, and Stafford loans easier for all borrowers. Refinancing student loan borrowers can potentially reduce their interest rate, monthly payment or total debt service. Borrowers can choose a 5, 10, or 15-year term. RISLA provides refinancing student loan borrowers with a comprehensive disclosure regarding potential federal student loan income driven repayment and loan forgiveness programs that the student will give up when refinancing their student loan.

College Planning Center of Rhode Island (CPCRI)

- Started by RISLA in 1998, the CPCRI provides free expert college admissions and financial aid counseling to parents and students. The CPCRI is staffed by former financial aid and college planning counselors.
- CPCRI staff provides one-on-one counseling to parents and students in completing the often-complex financial aid forms such as the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the College Board's CSS Profile financial aid application.
- Working with high school counselors, CPCRI staff provide workshops on financial aid, essay writing and college selection. On December 8, 2016, RISLA hosted a workshop for high school counselors with college admissions and financial aid officers providing training. The workshop was kicked off by General Treasurer Seth Magaziner.
- The College Planning Center of Rhode Island made 17,868 contacts with parents and students through in-person counseling and seminars to assist with their college planning needs in FY 2016.
- The CPCRI website located at www.RISLA.com contains many financial aid and admissions resources including a scholarship search service containing many locally based scholarships.

Paul Sherlock Scholarship Fund

- \$50,000 need based annual scholarship fund named after former college professor, leader in special education, RISLA board member, and legislator. Funding for this program has been provided by the Nelnet Foundation.
- RISLA has funded 325 need based scholarships totaling \$650,000 from FY 2004 through FY 2016.

Nursing Rewards Programs

- RISLA's Nursing Reward Program offers ZERO interest for 48 months of loan repayment to qualified borrowers who have a RISLA Student Loan or RISLA Parent Loan with RISLA. The RISLA Student Loan and RISLA Parent Loan are low fixed rate state-based education loans available to Rhode Island residents and students attending eligible schools in Rhode Island.
- One hundred twenty-two students have entered repayment under the Rewards programs and approximately another 150 students are potentially eligible when they enter repayment. An eligible teaching, nursing, or pharmacy student with \$16,000 loan balance can potentially save over \$1,800 in interest payments with RISLA's rewards programs.

Nurse Educators Reward Program

- RISLA also enhanced a Nurse Educators Reward program with a \$5,000 student loan forgiveness in each of the first four years of repayment for a total amount of \$20,000 savings. The program is designed to encourage students to become college level instructors of nursing at Rhode Island's colleges and universities.

Customer Service

- RISLA has been known and continues to be known for its superior customer service. A local presence is important for schools and students and that factor distinguishes RISLA from its out-of-state competition.
- RISLA provides a locally operated call center for students and schools; locally operated loan disbursement center; default prevention programs for students and schools; financial literacy counseling; and online entrance and exit sessions. By establishing our local presence, our loan origination staff is available to meet with students and their families to explain the various loan programs, assist in completion of loan applications and help to clear credit issues.
- Technology plays an important role in providing superior customer service. RISLA has invested in communication equipment, hardware and software to ensure that RISLA stays ahead of the pack in customer service. RISLA has developed mobile applications for its many programs to help push information to students and parents.
- Information on the Authority's programs is available by calling 1-800-758-7862 or locally at 401-468-1700 or on the web at www.risla.com.

MEETING MINUTES AND RULES AND REGULATIONS

In accordance with the RI Open Meeting Laws, R.I. Gen. Laws. § 42-46-7(d), all public bodies are required to file a copy of the minutes of all open meetings with the secretary of state for inspection by the public within thirty-five (35) days of the meeting.

The Rhode Island Student Loan Authority's Board of Directors Meeting Minutes for fiscal year ended June 30, 2016 can be found on the Office of Secretary of State's website at the following address: http://sos.ri.gov/openmeetings/?page=view_entity&id=529

RISLA's promulgated rules and regulations can be found on the Office of Secretary of State's website at the following address: <http://sos.ri.gov/rules/>

A summary of the RISLA Board of Directors meeting minutes can be found on the following pages of this annual report.

OPERATING STATEMENT

Summary of Board of Directors Meetings

Year Ending June 30, 2016

Board meeting Date: August 21, 2015

Items discussed and voted:

1. Discussed increase in loan volume
2. Discussed College Planning Center and outreach programs

Board meeting Date: September 24, 2015

Items discussed and voted:

1. Discussed and voted to approve the 2015 audited Financial Report
2. Discussed RISLA's cyber security plans
3. Reviewed brief presentation of various RISLA websites

Board meeting Date: October 16, 2015

Items discussed and voted:

1. Discussed compliance needs and staffing
2. Discussed financing plans for RISLA's Refi Loans

Board Meeting Date: November 20, 2015

Items discussed and voted:

1. Discussed and voted to approve the resolution for an additional \$10 million line of credit with Santander for RISLA's Refi financing
2. Discussed and voted to increased staff wages 2% in accordance with state policies

Board Meeting Date: December 18, 2015

Items discussed and voted:

1. Voted to approve amended by-laws to conform with today's practices
2. Reviewed and discussed transparency compliance

Board Meeting Date: January 15, 2016

Items discussed and voted:

1. Discussed RISLA's strategic plans performance measures for 2016
2. Reviewed and discussed transparency compliance

Board Meeting Date: February 12, 2016

Items discussed and voted:

1. Discussed and voted to enter into a lease for its administrative and professional office at 935 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, RI
2. Discussed and voted to pursue the private letter ruling with the Internal Revenue Service, regarding the use of tax exempt bonds to fund refinancing student loans

Board Meeting Date: March 18, 2016

Items discussed and voted:

1. Discussed and voted to approve the bond issue authorizing resolution for the 2016-2017 school year funding
2. Voted to approve the bond issuance cost budget
3. Voted to approve RISLA's 2016 Strategic Plan

Board Meeting Date: April 15, 2016

Items discussed and voted:

1. Discussed student loan repayment initiatives
2. Voted to approve the budget for office furniture at 935 Jefferson Boulevard

Board Meeting Date: May 6, 2016

Items discussed and voted:

1. Discussed bond issuance and new loan interest rates
2. Discussed and voted to accept the finance subcommittee report on the SOCr report and December 31, 2015 financials
3. Discussed and voted to approve the contracts for network cabling and electrical wiring at 935 Jefferson Boulevard
4. Voted to re-elect current slate of officers for RISLA Board of Directors

Board Meeting Date: June 24, 2016

Items discussed and voted:

1. Voted to approve the FYE 2017 budget
2. Discussed and voted to continue the Sherlock Scholarship Program
3. Discussed and voted to designate existing and future payments on loans in or released from bond trusts to fund RISLA's refinancing program

STAFF SUPPORTED BY RISLA FUNDS AND DEBT AND ARBITRAGE REBATE

Staff Supported by RISLA Funds

RISLA receives no state appropriation and is entirely funded through revenues generated from its student loan programs and bond issues which are not in any way guaranteed by the state. RISLA's authorizing statute (RIGL Chapter 16-62) grants the Board of Directors the authority to appoint an Executive Director to run the day-to-day operations of RISLA. As of November 2016, RISLA had 39 full time employees who were responsible for managing RISLA's programs, financial reporting and the control and accounting of the flow of funds in RISLA's bond trust estates.

The Authority has separate agreements with Nelnet, University Accounting Services and Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Authority to provide in school and loan repayment servicing for RISLA's student loan portfolio.

TRAINING COURSES HELD AND RISLA FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Summary of Training Courses Held Pursuant to This Chapter

RISLA's staff has attended or viewed the training sessions conducted by the Attorney General, the State Ethics Commission, and the University of Rhode Island School of Continuing Education on Open Meetings, Retention of Public Records and Ethics Commission gift and conflict requirements. Board members were briefed by RISLA's General Counsel on the state's Conflict of Interest Laws.

RISLA FINANCIAL REPORTS

RISLA Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2016

On the next several pages are RISLA's statement of net position; statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position; statement of cash flows; and notes to financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2016. RISLA's complete audited financial statements, including the auditor's opinion letter and management discussion and analysis, is available on the web at www.risla.com or by calling the Authority at 401-468-1700.

**RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY
(A RELATED ORGANIZATION OF THE
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2016 AND 2015**

**RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY
(A RELATED ORGANIZATION OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND)**

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board Members
Rhode Island Student Loan Authority

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority, (a related organization of the State of Rhode Island), as of and for the years ended June 30, 2016 and 2015, and the related notes to the 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 the financial statements that are free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audits 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 of material misstatement.



An audit involves procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. These procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of 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 opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority as of June 30, 2016, and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance 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 America require that the management's discussion and analysis on Pages 4-8 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 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 September 30, 2016 on our consideration of the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority'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 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 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 Rhode Island Student Loan Authority's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Marcum LLP

Providence, RI
September 30, 2016

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

JUNE 30, 2016

As management of the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority (RISLA or the Authority), we offer readers of RISLA's financial statements this overview and analysis of our financial activities for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016. RISLA's management encourages readers to review the entire financial report and contact the Authority with any questions or comments.

RISLA management believes that the Rhode Island Fixed Rate Student Loan offers attractive terms and conditions as compared to other student loan programs in the market. In FY 2016, RISLA continued to offer its Rhode Island Fixed Rate Student Loan program. This offered student borrowers two options. Students attending college in Rhode Island and State residents attending an out of state school could choose a ten year immediate repayment option at a 3.99% fixed rate with automatic payment. Students could also choose a deferred repayment option at a fixed rate of 6.29% for a fifteen year term with automatic payment. No payments are required on the 15 year loan until six months after the student graduates or leaves school. RISLA offered in FY 2016 a ten year parent loan with a fixed interest rate of 5.50% with automatic payment. RISLA was able to offer these low fixed rates as well as eliminate any upfront or origination fees for all borrowers. In FY 2017, RISLA will decrease the fixed interest rate on a 15 year term loan to 5.74% with automatic payment and decrease the fixed interest rate on a ten year parent loan to 4.74% with automatic payment. RISLA originated approximately \$44 million in Rhode Island Fixed rate loans to borrowers in FY 2016.

Beginning in fiscal year 2015, RISLA was the first state based organization to offer a refinancing program for borrowers with private or Federal student loans. The refinancing program will provide existing borrowers the opportunity to ease their financial burden with the security of low, fixed rates and favorable repayment terms. Since the start of the program through June 30, 2016, RISLA has refinanced \$23.4 million of student loans for 523 borrowers. Utilizing the financial strength of its Statements of Net Position, RISLA was able to secure a line of credit from a commercial bank to help fund the refinancing of student loans. The refinancing program helped borrowers save an average of approximately \$7,300 in interest costs over the term of the loan. RISLA plans to expand the student loan refinancing program in FY 2017.

RISLA continues to promote the value and benefits of college internships in collaboration with the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Rhode Island, The Rhode Island Board of Education, and the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce. The goal of the partnership is to help match Rhode Island employers with talented students through the website www.bridge.jobs. The partnership and website has, as of June 30, 2016, cumulatively registered 6,107 students, 1,076 employers, and listed 1,278 internships. RISLA hosts the website and markets the program to employers and colleges across Rhode Island.

RISLA has offered college access initiatives through its College Planning Center of Rhode Island (CPC) since 1998. The College Planning Center of Rhode Island provides free expert and personal assistance to students and parents in the areas of college admission and financial aid. In fiscal year 2016, the staff at the CPC provided assistance to approximately 17,868 contacts, which represents a 10% increase over the prior year. The College Planning Center currently operates three locations which are in Warwick, Bristol, and Cumberland. The CPC also provides a searchable data base of hard to find local scholarships. RISLA and the CPC work closely with the Spanish and Latino speaking population in Rhode Island with a goal of increasing college attendance and success among the Latino residents of the state.

RISLA administers a student loan forgiveness program that is funded by the Rhode Island Foundation. Under this arrangement, RISLA manages all aspects of the program according to policy guidelines established by the Foundation. The program offers student loan forgiveness to qualified applicants for two professions, Nurse Practitioners, and Physicians Assistants. Funding for the primary care loan forgiveness program has been exhausted so the Authority is not accepting new applications. The programs require the applicant to be employed in the State of Rhode Island to be eligible. Qualified applicants receive annual awards that are sent directly to the holder of their student loan. To date, RISLA has received approximately \$2.4 million in funds for the programs.

RISLA issued \$55,000,000 in new bonds in FY 2016, which will be used to fund RISLA's education loan programs in FY 2017.

RISLA holds and administers their portfolio of federally guaranteed Stafford, PLUS and Consolidation loans issued under the Federal Family Education Loan program which had a principal balance of \$275,603,110 at June 30, 2016.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- RISLA was able to continue offering the Rhode Island Fixed Rate Student Loan to Rhode Island residents and students attending colleges and universities in Rhode Island. This is an industry leading fixed rate student loan that has been offered by RISLA for 24 years. RISLA originated approximately \$44 million in Rhode Island Fixed Rate student loans in the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016 and was able to secure financing to originate another \$55,000,000 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017.
- Bonds payable decreased from \$608,160,000 on June 30, 2015 to \$556,294,000 on June 30, 2016. This represents a decrease of \$51,866,000 or 8.53%. In FY 2016, RISLA issued \$55,000,000 in new fixed rate bonds. RISLA redeemed \$106,866,000 in bonds through redemptions of auction rate securities and other scheduled bond payments.
- RISLA services its private loan portfolio (principal balance of approximately \$380 million at June 30, 2016) utilizing RISLA employees. Servicing its portfolio of private loans has resulted in better portfolio management, a reduction of defaulted borrowers, and lower servicing costs.

OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial section of this annual report consists of three parts: management's discussion and analysis (this section), the basic financial statements and the notes to the financial statements, and other supplementary information.

The financial statements provide both long-term and short-term information about the Authority's overall financial status. The financial statements also include notes that explain key points in the financial statements and provide more detailed data. The statements are followed by a section of supplementary information that further explains and supports the information in the financial statements.

The Authority's financial statements are prepared in conformity with accounting principles accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) as applied to the government units on an accrual basis. Under this basis, revenues are recognized in the period in which they are earned, expenses are recognized in the period in which they are incurred, and depreciation of assets is recognized in the Statements of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position. All assets and liabilities associated with the operation of the Authority are included in the Statements of Net Position.

The Statements of Net Position reports the Authority's net assets and how they have changed. Net assets – the difference between the Authority's assets and liabilities – is one way to measure the Authority's financial health or position.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Net Position

For fiscal year ended June 30, 2016, the Authority's total assets exceeded the total liabilities by \$164,242,450 for an increase of 5.97% as compared to June 30, 2015. At June 30, 2015 the total assets exceeded the total liabilities by \$154,994,379 which was an increase of 6.50% as compared to June 30, 2014. A condensed summary of the Authority's net assets at June 30 is shown below.

Student loan receivables are the largest component of assets and decreased from \$737,682,052 on June 30, 2014 to \$663,730,346 on June 30, 2015, which represents a decrease of 10.02%. Student loan receivables amounted to \$605,979,140 on June 30, 2016, a decrease of 8.70%. The other significant component of assets is cash and investments restricted by the terms of various trust indentures. The amount of restricted cash and investments on June 30, 2014 equaled \$104,621,126. On June 30, 2015, restricted cash and investments equaled \$98,927,763. On June 30, 2016, restricted cash and investments equaled \$118,146,012. Restricted cash and investment balances are primarily used to acquire student loans, retire bond and other bank debt, and pay semiannual interest payments.

Liabilities consist primarily of bond debt. On June 30, 2014 bond debt outstanding, net of unamortized bond premium and discount, amounted to \$700,860,499. On June 30, 2015 bond debt outstanding amounted to \$611,526,676. On June 30, 2016 bond debt outstanding amounted to \$560,334,152.

	2016	2015	Percentage Change	2014	Percentage Change
Other assets	\$745,142,691	\$786,225,411	-5.23%	\$864,832,949	-9.09%
Capital assets	335,472	135,010	148.48%	136,669	-1.21%
Total Assets	<u>745,478,163</u>	<u>786,360,421</u>	-5.20%	<u>864,969,618</u>	-9.09%
Current liabilities	20,973,544	18,401,403	13.98%	18,731,521	-1.76%
Noncurrent liabilities	554,649,762	605,270,003	-8.36%	691,435,573	-12.46%
Total liabilities	<u>575,623,306</u>	<u>623,671,406</u>	-7.70%	<u>710,167,094</u>	-12.18%
Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>5,612,407</u>	<u>7,694,636</u>	-27.06%	<u>9,262,929</u>	-16.93%
Net Position					
Investment in capital assets, net of related debt	335,472	135,010	148.48%	136,669	-1.21%
Restricted for debt service	151,498,444	146,773,919	3.22%	141,247,917	3.91%
Unrestricted	12,408,534	8,085,450	53.47%	4,155,009	94.60%
Total Net Position	<u>\$164,242,450</u>	<u>\$154,994,379</u>	5.97%	<u>\$145,539,595</u>	6.50%

CHANGES IN NET POSITION

The Authority's Operating Income for the year ended June 30, 2016 was \$9,128,571, which was a decrease of 3.25% as compared to fiscal year ended June 30, 2015. The Operating Income at June 30, 2015 was \$9,434,784 which was an increase of 3.93% as compared to fiscal year ended June 30, 2014.

The Authority's decrease in net position for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2016 and 2015 was \$9,248,071 and \$9,454,784 respectively.

Net loan interest income (Loan interest income less DOE Special Allowance Payments) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016 decreased by \$924,170 or 3.07% as compared to the year ended June 30, 2015. Other income accounts for less than 10% of total revenues and is comprised of investment income, unrealized gains/losses on market adjustment of investment accounts and fee revenue. Other income increased by \$273,792 or 8.78% as compared to June 30, 2015. Interest expense for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016 increased by \$47,921 or 0.38% as compared to June 30, 2015. The provision for loan losses (Bad Debt Expense) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016 decreased by \$334,764 or 19.14% as compared to June 30, 2015.

	2016	2015	Percentage Change	2014	Percentage Change
Loan interest income	\$40,974,740	\$44,812,987	-8.57%	\$49,159,541	-8.84%
DOE special allowance payments	(11,791,716)	(14,705,793)	-19.82%	(17,050,822)	-13.75%
Other income	3,390,596	3,116,804	8.78%	3,488,638	-10.66%
Total income	32,573,620	33,223,998	-1.96%	35,597,357	-6.67%
Interest expense	12,637,553	12,589,632	0.38%	12,351,943	1.92%
Arbitrage rebate	436,864	491,975	11.20%	938,760	-47.59%
External loan servicing	1,830,297	2,026,324	-9.67%	2,209,548	-8.29%
DOE loan fees	840,658	948,563	-11.38%	1,060,108	-10.52%
Provision for loan losses	1,413,833	1,748,597	-19.14%	2,312,676	-24.39%
Other operating expenses	6,285,844	5,984,123	5.04%	7,646,042	-21.74%
Total expenses	23,445,049	23,789,214	-1.45%	26,519,077	-10.29%
Operating Income (Loss)	9,128,571	9,434,784		9,078,280	
Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)	119,500	20,000		545,500	
Change in net position	9,248,071	9,454,784		9,623,780	
Net position, beginning of year	154,994,379	145,539,595		135,915,815	
Total net position, end of year	\$164,242,450	\$154,994,379	5.97%	\$145,539,595	6.50%

DEBT ADMINISTRATION

RISLA funds student loan notes receivable by issuing tax-exempt and taxable bank term financing. Tax-exempt bonds must receive an allocation of the State of Rhode Island private activity bond volume ceiling or “cap”. The bonds issued by RISLA must comply with state and federal statutes and with rules and regulations of the U.S. Treasury Department and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Detailed information on RISLA’s debt is presented in note 6 of the financial statements.

CONTACTING THE AUTHORITY’S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the Authority’s financial activity for all those interested in the Authority’s operations. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority, 935 Jefferson Blvd., Warwick, Rhode Island, 02886.

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

STATEMENTS OF NET POSITION

JUNE 30, 2016 AND 2015

	2016	2015
Current Assets		
Cash, cash equivalents and investments:		
Unrestricted:		
Cash	\$ 535,407	\$ 1,010,035
Cash equivalents	2,063,647	4,508,811
Restricted:		
Cash	2,159,977	1,658,513
Cash equivalents	102,443,849	83,824,933
Investments	13,542,186	13,444,317
Student loans receivable	55,687,770	63,482,645
Accrued interest receivable:		
Student loans	18,019,664	17,638,105
Investments	57,918	53,861
Other receivables	39,394	60,104
Prepaid expenses	301,509	296,386
Total Current Assets	194,851,321	185,977,710
Noncurrent Assets		
Student loans receivable - net	550,291,370	600,247,701
Capital Assets		
Capital assets, less accumulated depreciation of \$596,882 and \$522,060, respectively	335,472	135,010
Total Assets	745,478,163	786,360,421

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

STATEMENTS OF NET POSITION (CONTINUED)

JUNE 30, 2016 AND 2015

	2016	2015
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Bonds payable	\$ 14,025,000	\$ 11,530,000
Due to U.S. Department of Education	2,657,330	3,423,780
Accrued interest payable	1,241,057	1,139,822
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	955,627	906,391
Grants payable	512,042	867,232
Note payable, current	1,582,488	534,178
Total Current Liabilities	20,973,544	18,401,403
Noncurrent Liabilities		
Bonds payable, net of bond premium (discount) of \$4,040,152 and \$3,366,676, respectively	546,309,152	599,996,676
Note payable, noncurrent	5,728,874	3,027,007
Accrued arbitrage rebate	2,611,736	2,246,320
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	554,649,762	605,270,003
Total Liabilities	575,623,306	623,671,406
Deferred Inflows of Resources		
Unavailable revenue - loan origination fees	5,612,407	7,381,828
Unavailable revenue - direct loan servicing	--	312,808
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	5,612,407	7,694,636
Net Position		
Net investment in capital assets	335,472	135,010
Restricted for debt service	151,498,444	146,773,919
Unrestricted	12,408,534	8,085,450
Total Net Position	\$ 164,242,450	\$ 154,994,379

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2016 AND 2015

	2016	2015
Operating Revenues		
Interest income:		
Student loans	\$ 40,974,740	\$ 44,812,987
U.S. Department of Education Special Allowance Payments	(11,791,716)	(14,705,793)
Investments, net	452,053	343,085
Fee income	2,938,543	2,773,719
Total Operating Revenues	32,573,620	33,223,998
Operating Expenses		
Interest	12,637,553	12,589,632
Provision for loan losses	1,413,833	1,748,597
Provision for arbitrage rebate	436,864	491,975
U.S. Department of Education loan fees - consolidation rebate	840,658	948,563
Loan servicing and acquisition costs	1,830,297	2,026,324
Salaries	2,233,226	2,192,881
Administration	1,070,076	874,799
Employee benefits	666,233	632,066
College Planning Center expenses	828,123	801,100
Legal and accounting	308,016	317,675
Miscellaneous bond expenses	346,894	434,547
Bond issuance costs	592,769	505,724
Payroll taxes	165,686	153,658
Depreciation	74,821	71,673
Total Operating Expenses	23,445,049	23,789,214
Operating Income	9,128,571	9,434,784
Nonoperating Revenues and Expenses		
Gain on early retirement of bonds	119,500	20,000
Changes in Net Position	9,248,071	9,454,784
Net Position - Beginning of the Year	154,994,379	145,539,595
Net Position - End of the Year	\$ 164,242,450	\$ 154,994,379

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2016 AND 2015

	2016	2015
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Cash received for:		
Student loan interest	\$ 25,973,496	\$ 27,947,534
Student loan principal	120,252,797	125,918,839
Fee income	2,938,543	2,773,719
Interest on investments	358,524	391,776
Grants	(355,190)	(439,040)
Cash paid for:		
Origination and purchase of student loans	(62,501,591)	(51,967,133)
Interest paid on bonds	(13,493,987)	(13,231,014)
Contractual services	(840,658)	(948,563)
Goods and services	(6,431,583)	(6,855,478)
Employee salaries	(2,386,922)	(2,301,609)
Employee benefits	(666,233)	(632,066)
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	62,847,196	80,656,965
Cash Flows from Noncapital Financing Activities		
Proceeds from note payable	5,000,000	3,739,244
Payment of note payable	(1,249,822)	(178,059)
Payment of bond maturities	(106,746,500)	(131,757,000)
Proceeds from sale of revenue bonds	56,633,395	43,177,881
Net Cash Used in Noncapital Financing Activities	(46,362,927)	(85,017,934)
Cash Flows from Capital and Related Financing Activities		
Purchase of equipment	(275,284)	(70,014)
Net Cash Used in Capital and Related Financing Activities	(275,284)	(70,014)
Cash Flows from Investing Activities		
Purchases of investment securities	(1,660,000)	(6,508,241)
Sales of investment securities	1,651,603	1,822,451
Net Cash Used in Investing Activities	(8,397)	(4,685,790)
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	16,200,588	(9,116,773)
Cash and Cash Equivalents, Beginning of Year	91,002,292	100,119,065
Cash and Cash Equivalents, End of Year	\$ 107,202,880	\$ 91,002,292

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2016 AND 2015

	2016	2015
Reconciliation of Operating Income to Net Cash Provided		
by Operating Activities		
Operating income	\$ 9,128,571	\$ 9,434,784
Adjustments to reconcile operating income to net cash provided by for operating activities:		
Depreciation of capital assets	74,821	71,673
Amortization - bond premiums and discounts	(959,919)	(734,704)
Increase in allowance for uncollectible accounts	477,794	805,366
Unrealized (gains) losses on investments	(97,953)	35,127
Realized losses on investments	8,481	18,679
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
Decrease in loans receivable	57,273,412	73,146,340
Decrease (increase) in other receivables	20,710	(12,386)
(Increase) in accrued interest receivable - loans	(1,148,009)	(578,981)
(Increase) in accrued interest receivable - investments	(4,057)	(5,115)
(Increase) decrease in prepaid expenses	(5,123)	105,933
Increase in bond accrued interest	101,235	49,104
(Decrease) in grants payable	(355,190)	(439,040)
(Decrease) in deferred inflows of resources	(2,082,229)	(1,568,293)
Increase in accounts payable and accrued expenses	414,652	328,478
	<u>\$ 62,847,196</u>	<u>\$ 80,656,965</u>
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities		

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2016 AND 2015

NOTE 1 – DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

ORGANIZATION

The Rhode Island Student Loan Authority (the Authority) is a public instrumentality established in May 1981 by an Act of the Rhode Island General Assembly and therefore the Authority is a related organization of the State of Rhode Island for financial reporting purposes. The Authority was created for the purpose of providing a system of financial assistance for qualified students to enable them to obtain a post-secondary education by attending public or private institutions. In achieving its objectives, the Authority acts as a lender and issues student loans to borrowers, which are funded by the issuance of tax-exempt bonds. It has the power to issue negotiable notes and bonds to achieve its corporate purpose. The bonds, which are issued under various resolutions, are special obligations of the Authority and are payable solely from the revenues and investments pledged under each resolution.

BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The accounts of the Authority are maintained in accordance with the principles of proprietary fund accounting as set forth by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) utilizing the accrual basis of accounting. Under the accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when earned, regardless of when received in cash, and expenses are recognized when the related liability for goods and services is incurred, regardless of when payment is made.

BASIS OF PRESENTATION

In order to ensure observances of limitations and restrictions placed on the use of resources available to the Authority, the accounts of the Authority are maintained in accordance with the principles of Fund Accounting. This is a procedure by which resources for various purposes are classified for accounting and reporting purposes into funds that are in accordance with activities or objectives specified. Separate accounts are maintained for each fund.

INCOME TAXES

The Authority is exempt from Federal and State income taxes.

RECENTLY ADOPTED ACCOUNTING STANDARDS ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTING STANDARDS BOARD

GASB Statement No. 72 - *Fair Value Measurement and Application*, effective for the Authority's fiscal year ending June 30, 2016. The adoption of this standard did not have an impact on the financial statements of the Authority.

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2016 AND 2015

NOTE 1 – DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

DEBT ISSUANCE COSTS

Debt issuance costs incurred in connection with bonds payable are reported as an expense in the year incurred.

OPERATING AND NON-OPERATING REVENUES AND EXPENSES

The Authority distinguishes between operating and non-operating revenues and expenses. Operating revenues and expenses generally result from providing services in connection with the Authority's principal ongoing student loan operations. The Authority's operating revenue is derived primarily from income on student loans consisting of loan interest, and earnings (losses) on investing activities since it is considered a lender, and fee income. The Authority's operating expenses are related to student loan origination and servicing activities and general administration. Non-operating revenue and expense are items not related to the ongoing operation of the student loan operations, such as gain on early redemption of bonds. Predominantly all items of revenue and expense are reported as operating revenues and expenses in the statement of revenues, expenses and changes in net position.

RESTRICTED VERSUS UNRESTRICTED RESOURCES

When both restricted and unrestricted amounts are available for use, it is the Authority's practice to use restricted resources first.

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Property and equipment is stated at cost. The Authority provides for depreciation using the straight-line method over the estimated useful life of the asset. The Authority estimates the useful life for leasehold improvements to be the same as the term of the lease, three years for computer equipment and five years for furniture and fixtures. Depreciation expense for fiscal years 2016 and 2015 totaled \$74,821 and \$71,673, respectively. Capital assets are defined by the Authority, as assets with an individual cost of \$2,500 or more and an estimated useful life in excess of one year.

STUDENT LOANS

The Authority originates and holds state based private education student loans utilizing credit criteria approved by the bond resolution. These loans are not guaranteed under the Higher Education Act. In 2015, the Authority developed a new program for current student loan borrowers to refinance their student loan into a new debt instrument. The Authority is also a holder of federally guaranteed student loans under the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP).

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2016 AND 2015

NOTE 1 – DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

STUDENT LOANS (CONTINUED)

Student loans are carried at their uncollected principal balances and are reduced by an allowance for loan losses of \$50,381,575 and \$49,903,781 at June 30, 2016 and 2015, respectively. The allowance for loan losses is determined by management's evaluation of the student loan portfolios. This evaluation considers such factors as historical loss experience, quality of student loan servicing and collection, and economic conditions. When this evaluation determines that an exposure to loss is probable and reasonably estimated, a provision against current operations net of student loan recoveries is recorded. Actual losses are charged against the allowance for loan losses as they occur.

FFELP student loans and the accrued interest thereon purchased or originated by the Authority are fully guaranteed for loans disbursed prior to September 30, 1993 and are guaranteed at 98% for loans disbursed between October 1, 1993 and June 30, 2006, and are guaranteed at 97% for loans disbursed between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2010. The Authority's FFELP loans are substantially insured by the Rhode Island Division of Higher Education Assistance (DHEA) within the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner (OPC). The Federal Government reinsures loans guaranteed by DHEA to the extent provided by regulatory guidelines.

INTEREST ON LOANS RECEIVABLE

Interest on loans receivable is calculated using the simple interest method. Interest is accrued on loans receivable from the date of the last repayment installment to the date of the financial statements. While the Authority continues to accrue interest due on all loans, the provision for loan losses factors in the potential uncollectability of both loan principal and accrued interest.

BOND PREMIUM AND DISCOUNT

The bond premium and discount are amortized (straight-line method) over the term of the bonds series to which it relates.

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

The Authority considers all highly liquid investments with a maturity of three months or less when purchased to be cash equivalents.

Under the Rhode Island General Law section 35-10.1, Rhode Island Collateralization of Public Deposits Act, the Authority must have their funds collateralized 100% for all time deposits with maturities over 60 days and for all deposits if the depository institution does not meet its minimum capital standards as required by its federal regulators.

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2016 AND 2015

NOTE 1 – DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

INVESTMENTS

Investments are carried at fair value. Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

All of the bond series trust and indenture agreements require that cash and investments be held by the trustee for the benefit of the bondholders and their maturity is to coincide as nearly as practicable with payments due on bonds. Otherwise, uninvested monies are to be invested in available overnight investments. According to the indenture agreements, investments to be held by the trustee are limited to the following:

- * United States Treasury Securities
- * Demand deposits with banks which are members of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
- * Federal Agency or Instrumentality bonds
- * Certain repurchase agreements
- * Certain bankers acceptances
- * Shares in certain Investment Companies
- * Certain obligations of any state, or political subdivision, or municipal corporation
- * Certain eligible loans
- * Investment Agreements approved by the rating agencies
- * Commercial paper

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2016 AND 2015

NOTE 1 – DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

VACATION AND SICK LEAVE

The Authority provides all full-time employees with at least two weeks' vacation time per year. Employees can carry over up to a maximum of two times their annual accrual. At time of termination, the employee is entitled to all accrued vacation time. The June 30 accrual is calculated at the current pay scale.

The Authority provides employees with three weeks of sick time per year which can be accrued up to a maximum of six months. Sick time is not payable to the employee upon termination.

GRANTS PAYABLE

Grants payable represents funds held by RISLA to administer a student loan forgiveness program that is funded by the Rhode Island Foundation (the "Foundation"). RISLA manages all aspects of the program, including the disbursement of funds, according to policy guidelines established by the Foundation.

ACCRUED ARBITRAGE REBATE LIABILITY

Interest income to the Authority from investments and student loans is limited by U.S. Treasury regulations. Interest income earned in excess of the allowable amounts will be remitted to the Federal Government as required by the applicable laws and regulations.

Investment interest income is limited to the bond yield on certain tax-exempt bond issues. Interest income in excess of this limit has been reserved for rebate in accordance with applicable financing documents.

Investment interest income from student loans is limited to 2% over bond yield of the related tax-exempt bond issue. Student loans, including principal and accrued interest, and cash have been reserved for rebate in the amount of the interest income which exceeded the limit. The Authority can potentially reduce the rebate liability through interest rate and loan forgiveness programs.

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2016 AND 2015

NOTE 1 – DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

DEFERRED OUTFLOWS/INFLOWS OF RESOURCES

In addition to assets, the statement of net position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate section represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense) until that later date. At June 30, 2016, there were no deferred outflows of resources.

In addition to liabilities, the statement of net position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate section represents the acquisition of net position that applies to a future period and therefore will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until a later date. At June 30, 2016 and 2015, unavailable loan origination fees represent a 4% loan origination fee which was assessed on certain loans at the time the loan enters a repayment status and is collected over the term of the loan. The unavailable loan origination fees included in the statement of net position were \$5,612,407 at June 30, 2016 and \$7,381,828 at June 30, 2015. Additionally, at June 30, 2015, the unavailable direct loan servicing represents a one-time up-front fee of \$715,000 (see note 9). The unavailable loan servicing included in the statement of net position was \$312,808 at June 30, 2015.

NET POSITION

Net position is classified in the following three components: net investment in capital assets; restricted; and unrestricted net position. Net investment in capital assets consists of all capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and reduced by outstanding debt that is attributable to the acquisition, construction and improvement of those assets. Any debt related to unspent bond proceeds or other cash and investments is excluded from the determination. Restricted for debt service consists of net position for which constraints are placed thereon by external parties, such as lenders, grantors, contributors, laws, regulations and enabling legislation, including self-imposed legal mandates. Unrestricted consists of all other net position not included in the above categories.

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2016 AND 2015

NOTE 1 – DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

NET POSITION (CONTINUED)

The financial activity associated with each of the Authority’s Student Loan Program Revenue Bonds is recorded in the trust established for each such bond issue. In accordance with the Pledge of Indenture, the accounts held by the trustee are restricted for the “equal and ratable benefit and security of the bondholders.” All revenues derived from program activities are deposited in the revenue account applicable to each individual bond series as specified in the Pledge of Indenture. The trustee is then directed to pay items from the revenue account in specific priority order, including periodic transfers to the Authority’s operating account in an amount sufficient to pay for its program expenses including: salaries, utilities, office rent, legal, accounting, and other related expenses. Such transfers to the Authority’s operating account are limited in amount pursuant to the respective Bond issue trust indenture.

USE OF ESTIMATES

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based upon management’s knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. The process used by management in formulating the accounting estimates is based upon information available to them and their projection of future events and transactions affecting the Authority. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

RECLASSIFICATIONS

Certain components of net position in the FY 2015 financial statements have been reclassified. \$2,527,519 was reclassified from restricted for debt service to unrestricted. This reclassification had no effect on previously reported results of total net position or changes in net position.

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2016 AND 2015

NOTE 2 – CASH, CASH EQUIVALENTS AND FAIR VALUE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The following table compares the Authority's carrying cash balances to the bank balances. In addition, it discloses the total amount of funds which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

	June 30,	
	2016	2015
Cash Deposits		
Carrying amount of cash deposits:		
Unrestricted	\$ 535,407	\$ 1,010,035
Restricted	<u>2,159,977</u>	<u>1,658,513</u>
Total	<u>\$ 2,695,384</u>	<u>\$ 2,668,548</u>
Bank Balances		
Covered by Federal depository insurance	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000
Collateralized by financial institution	<u>1,256,142</u>	<u>1,889,452</u>
Total	<u>\$ 1,756,142</u>	<u>\$ 2,389,452</u>

CUSTODIAL CREDIT RISK - DEPOSITS

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the Authority's deposits may not be returned to it. The Authority has adopted a deposit policy relating to a custodial credit risk. According to the policy, the deposit accounts will be with commercial banks that have acceptable collateral to cover any deposit in excess of the FDIC insurance coverage.

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2016 AND 2015

**NOTE 2 – CASH, CASH EQUIVALENTS AND FAIR VALUE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS
(CONTINUED)**

CUSTODIAL CREDIT RISK – DEPOSITS (CONTINUED)

	June 30,	
	2016	2015
	Fair Value	Fair Value
Cash equivalents and investments unrestricted:		
Cash equivalents (Unrestricted):		
Government Agency Bonds and Security Funds and Commercial Paper	<u>\$ 2,063,647</u>	<u>\$ 4,508,811</u>
Total Cash Equivalents	<u>2,063,647</u>	<u>4,508,811</u>
Total Unrestricted	<u>2,063,647</u>	<u>4,508,811</u>
Cash Equivalents and Investments (Restricted):		
Cash Equivalents:		
Money Market Funds and Commercial Paper	<u>102,443,849</u>	<u>83,824,933</u>
Investments:		
U.S. Treasury Notes	<u>12,352,586</u>	<u>11,898,517</u>
Investment agreements	<u>1,189,600</u>	<u>1,545,800</u>
Total Investments	<u>13,542,186</u>	<u>13,444,317</u>
Total Restricted	<u>115,986,035</u>	<u>97,269,250</u>
Total Cash Equivalents and Investments	<u>\$ 118,049,682</u>	<u>\$ 101,778,061</u>

The restriction of cash, cash equivalents, and investments is for the payment of bonded debt and the issuance of student loans and related expenses. The restricted cash, cash equivalents, and investments are held by the trustee, U.S. Bank, as collateral for the Bonds (see Note 6).

The Authority has designated \$1,750,000 of unrestricted cash and cash equivalents to be used to fund the RISLA Parent Loan program. This program commenced on July 1, 2013 and is a fixed rate education loan available to parents only. The student is not required to be a signor on the loan.

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2016 AND 2015

**NOTE 2 – CASH, CASH EQUIVALENTS AND FAIR VALUE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS
(CONTINUED)**

CUSTODIAL CREDIT RISK – DEPOSITS (CONTINUED)

The Authority has also designated \$2,250,000 of unrestricted cash and cash equivalents to be used as pledged collateral in order to access funds from the line of credit (See Note 7). Amounts advanced from the line of credit are used to fund refinanced student loans.

The Authority follows the guidance for fair value measurements and disclosures in accordance with GASB Statement No. 72, “Fair Value Measurement and Application”. Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

FAIR VALUE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

In determining fair value, the Authority uses various valuation approaches, as appropriate in the circumstances. GASB 72 establishes a fair value hierarchy for inputs used in measuring fair value that maximizes the use of observable inputs and minimizes the use of unobservable inputs by requiring that the most observable inputs be used when available, of how the market would price the asset or liability. The fair value hierarchy is categorized into three levels based on the inputs as follows:

Level 1 – Unadjusted quoted priced in active markets that are accessible at the measurement date for identical assets or liabilities.

Level 2 – Inputs other than quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and liabilities that are observable either directly or indirectly for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.

Level 3 – Unobservable inputs for the asset or liability (supported by little or no market activity). Level 3 inputs include management’s own assumption about the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability (including assumptions about risk).

U.S. Government Securities: Valued at the closing price reported on the active market on which the individual securities are traded.

Guaranteed investment contract: Valued at fair value by discounting the related cash flows based on current yields of similar instruments with comparable durations considering the credit-worthiness of the issuer.

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2016 AND 2015

NOTE 2 – CASH, CASH EQUIVALENTS AND FAIR VALUE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONTINUED)

FAIR VALUE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONTINUED)

Financial assets and liabilities carried at fair value as of June 30, 2016 are classified in the following tables in one of the three categories described above:

Description	Maturity	Fair Value	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
U.S. Treasury Note	November 15, 2016	\$ 249,244	\$ 249,244	\$ --	\$ --
U.S. Treasury Note	November 30, 2016	1,250,675	1,250,675	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	December 15, 2016	623,635	623,635	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	April 15, 2017	386,167	386,167	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	September 15, 2017	437,292	437,292	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	November 30, 2017	1,251,025	1,251,025	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	December 31, 2017	249,652	249,652	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	May 31, 2018	755,798	755,798	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	July 31, 2018	991,323	991,323	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	September 30, 2018	1,033,801	1,033,801	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	May 15, 2019	400,811	400,811	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	May 31, 2019	1,253,190	1,253,190	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	November 15, 2019	472,671	472,671	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	November 30, 2019	754,890	754,890	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	February 15, 2021	570,741	570,741	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	February 28, 2021	1,671,670	1,671,670	--	--
Transamerica Life Insurance Co. (GIC)	December 1, 2028	1,189,600	--	1,189,600	--
Total		<u>\$ 13,542,186</u>	<u>\$ 12,352,586</u>	<u>\$ 1,189,600</u>	<u>\$ --</u>

Financial assets and liabilities carried at fair value as of June 30, 2015 are classified in the following tables in one of the three categories described above:

Description	Maturity	Fair Value	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
U.S. Treasury Note	November 15, 2015	\$ 515,239	\$ 515,239	\$ --	\$ --
U.S. Treasury Note	November 15, 2016	249,642	249,642	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	November 30, 2016	1,250,788	1,250,788	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	December 15, 2016	899,823	899,823	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	April 15, 2017	452,389	452,389	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	September 15, 2017	502,890	502,890	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	November 30, 2017	1,244,625	1,244,625	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	December 31, 2017	248,475	248,475	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	May 31, 2018	750,233	750,233	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	July 31, 2018	985,760	985,760	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	September 30, 2018	1,050,628	1,050,628	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	May 15, 2019	533,555	533,555	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	May 31, 2019	1,227,947	1,227,947	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	November 15, 2019	539,805	539,805	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	November 30, 2019	733,597	733,597	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	February 15, 2021	713,121	713,121	--	--
Transamerica Life Insurance Co. (GIC)	December 1, 2028	1,545,800	--	1,545,800	--
Total		<u>\$ 13,444,317</u>	<u>\$ 11,898,517</u>	<u>\$ 1,545,800</u>	<u>\$ --</u>

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2016 AND 2015

**NOTE 2 – CASH, CASH EQUIVALENTS AND FAIR VALUE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS
(CONTINUED)**

CUSTODIAL CREDIT RISK - INVESTMENTS

Custodial Credit Risk for investment securities is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the Authority will not be able to recover the value of their investments or collateral securities that are in possession of an outside party. According to the Authority's investment policy, funds held under a bond indenture or other security agreement will be invested following the current rating agency guidelines and with companies which comply with the ratings noted under Credit Risk.

INTEREST RATE RISK

Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. According to the Authority's investment policy, the investment portfolio is structured so that the securities mature to meet cash requirements for ongoing operations and investment are primarily in money market funds backed with U.S. Treasury obligations. The Authority, at June 30, 2016 and 2015, had investments in guaranteed investment contracts as required by the bond indentures which have interest rates that are fixed for long periods and are subject to more variability in their fair value as a result of future changes in interest rates, as follows:

Description	Interest Rate	Maturity	June 30, 2016	June 30, 2015
			Fair Value	Fair Value
Transamerica Life Insurance (GIC)	4.10%	December 1, 2028	<u>\$ 1,189,600</u>	<u>\$ 1,545,800</u>

CREDIT RISK

Credit risk is the risk that an issuer or other counterparty to an investment will not fulfill its obligations. According to the Authority's investment policy, funds will be invested in Investment Agreements permitted by the Authority's bond indentures. As of June 30, 2016 and 2015, the Authority's investment in Transamerica Life Insurance Co. Guaranteed Investment Contract was rated AA- by Standard and Poor's and A1 by Moody's Investor Services. If the credit rating of the investment providers decline, the Authority can require the provider to post additional collateral and or other remedies to ensure performance. All the remaining investments are either obligations of the U.S. Government or explicitly guaranteed by the U.S. Government.

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2016 AND 2015

**NOTE 2 – CASH, CASH EQUIVALENTS AND FAIR VALUE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS
(CONTINUED)**

CONCENTRATION OF CREDIT RISK

Concentration of credit risk is the risk of loss attributed to the magnitude of the Authority's investments in a single issuer. According to the Authority's investment policy, investments will be diversified to minimize the impact of potential losses from concentration in a specific maturity, a specific issuer or specific class of security. The Transamerica Life Insurance (GIC) represented 9% and 11% of the Authority's investments at June 30, 2016 and 2015, respectively.

NOTE 3 – LOANS RECEIVABLE

Loans receivable represent the unpaid portion of Federal Family Education Loans (FFELP) originated or purchased by the Authority. These loans are guaranteed by the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner (Note 11), and other guarantors which have guarantee agreements covering all or a substantial portion of each loan with the U.S. Department of Education (DOE). The Authority also originates and holds state based private education loans and refinanced student loans for qualified students and their families.

The FFELP loans have both fixed and variable interest rates which are established by the DOE, and repayment terms which are dependent on the loan type. The return on FFELP loans that lenders actually realize is based on formulas administered by the DOE and is dependent on loan type and date of origination. Any payment by borrowers in excess of the formulas must be returned to the DOE for loans originated after April 1, 2006. The DOE subsidizes the interest for certain FFELP loans during the borrowers' in-school, in-grace, and authorized deferment periods. The subsidized interest rate is determined by a formula and based on indexes published by the U.S. Department of Education. The interest subsidy is included with interest income on loans receivable in the accompanying Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position. The state based private loans and refinanced loans have fixed and variable interest rates with repayment terms between 5 years from the date of disbursement to 15 years from the date the student is no longer enrolled in an eligible institution.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2016 AND 2015

NOTE 3 – LOANS RECEIVABLE (CONTINUED)

Net loans receivable at June 30, 2016 and 2015 are as follows:

	2016	2015
FFELP loans receivable	\$ 275,603,110	\$ 331,740,091
Private loans receivable	380,757,605	381,894,036
Allowance for doubtful accounts	(50,381,575)	(49,903,781)
Net loans receivable	\$ 605,979,140	\$ 663,730,346

Student loans receivable are presented as assets on the statement of net position as follows at June 30:

	2016	2015
Current	\$ 55,687,770	\$ 63,482,645
Noncurrent	550,291,370	600,247,701
Total	\$ 605,979,140	\$ 663,730,346

NOTE 4 – CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital assets activity during the years ended June 30, 2016 and 2015 was as follows:

	Balance at July 1, 2015	Additions	Disposals	Balance at June 30, 2016
Capital assets, being depreciated:				
Furniture and fixtures	\$ 81,297	\$ 18,478	\$ --	\$ 99,775
Equipment	535,068	256,806	--	791,874
Leasehold improvements	40,706	--	--	40,706
	657,071	275,284	--	932,355
Accumulated Depreciation:				
Furniture and fixtures	66,643	4,426	--	71,069
Equipment	419,654	68,216	--	487,870
Leasehold improvements	35,764	2,180	--	37,944
Total Accumulated Depreciation	522,061	74,822	--	596,883
Net Capital Assets	\$ 135,010	\$ 200,462	\$ --	\$ 335,472

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2016 AND 2015

NOTE 4 – CAPITAL ASSETS (CONTINUED)

Capital assets activity during the years ended June 30, 2015 was as follows:

	Balance at July 1, 2014	Additions	Disposals	Balance at June 30, 2015
Capital assets, being depreciated:				
Furniture and fixtures	\$ 81,297	\$ --	\$ --	\$ 81,297
Equipment	465,054	70,014	--	535,068
Leasehold improvements	40,706	--	--	40,706
	<u>587,057</u>	<u>70,014</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>657,071</u>
Accumulated Depreciation:				
Furniture and fixtures	60,632	6,011	--	66,643
Equipment	356,172	63,482	--	419,654
Leasehold improvements	33,584	2,180	--	35,764
	<u>450,388</u>	<u>71,673</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>522,061</u>
Total Accumulated Depreciation	<u>450,388</u>	<u>71,673</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>522,061</u>
Net Capital Assets	<u>\$ 136,669</u>	<u>\$ (1,659)</u>	<u>\$ --</u>	<u>\$ 135,010</u>

NOTE 5 – OPERATING LEASES

The Authority leases its facility from the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner (Note 11) under an operating lease. The lease required monthly rental payments of \$9,689. The Authority was on a month-to-month lease which expired on June 30, 2016. The Authority entered into a new five year lease in February 2016 with 935 Jefferson, LLC, with a commencement date of June 2016. The monthly payments for the first twelve months are \$17,967; \$18,375 per month for year 2; \$18,783 per month for year 3; \$19,192 per month for year 4 and \$19,600 per month for year 5. Lease expense for the year ended June 30, 2016 and 2015 was \$134,230 and \$116,263, respectively.

Lease payments for the following years are:

Year Ending <u>June 30,</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2017	\$ 216,008
2018	220,908
2019	225,808
2020	230,708
2021	215,600
Total	<u>\$ 1,109,032</u>

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2016 AND 2015

NOTE 6 – BONDS PAYABLE

On March 13, 1997, the Authority issued Tax Exempt Auction Rate and Fixed Rate Student Loan Program Revenue Bonds with nominal values of \$45,000,000 (Series 1) and \$5,000,000 (Series 2). The Authority also issued taxable auction rate Student Loan Program Revenue Bonds with a face value of \$25,000,000 (Series 3). The Series 1 bonds are auction rate securities bearing interest at a rate reset every thirty five days. The existing auction rate at June 30, 2015 was .175% for Series 1 bonds. The Series 2 bonds pay interest ranging from 4.5% to 5.75% and matured in FY 2012. The proceeds of the issuances were used to originate and purchase eligible student loans. The 1997 Series 3 bonds were redeemed in FY 2004. The Series 1 bonds were redeemed in FY 2016.

On April 15, 1998, the Authority issued Tax Exempt Auction Rate and Fixed Rate Student Loan Program Revenue Bonds with nominal values of \$55,000,000 (Series 1) and \$5,000,000 (Series 2). The Authority also issued taxable auction rate Student Loan Program Revenue Bonds with a nominal value of \$20,000,000 (Series 3). The Series 1 bonds are auction rate securities and bore interest at a rate reset every thirty five days. The auction rate at June 30, 2014 was .088% for Series 1 bonds. The Series 2 bonds paid interest ranging from 4.35% to 5.35% and matured in 2012. The proceeds of the issuance were used to originate and purchase eligible student loans. The 1998 Series 3 bonds were redeemed in FY 2004. The Series 1 bonds were redeemed in FY 2015.

On March 15, 2000, the Authority issued Tax Exempt Auction Rate and Fixed Rate Student Loan Program Revenue Bonds with nominal values of \$32,000,000 (Series 1), \$32,000,000 (Series 2) and \$6,000,000 (Series 3). The Authority also issued taxable variable rate Student Loan Program Revenue Bonds with a nominal value of \$30,000,000 (Series 4). The Series 1 bonds were auction rate securities bearing interest at a rate reset every thirty five days. The existing auction rate at June 30, 2014 was .228% for Series 1 bond. The Series 3 bonds pay interest ranging from 5.0% to 5.9% and matured in FY 2012. The proceeds of the issuance were used to originate and purchase eligible student loans. The 2000 Series 2 bonds were redeemed in FY 2011. The 2000 Series 1 bonds were redeemed in FY 2015.

On February 15, 2002, the Authority issued Tax Exempt Auction Rate and Fixed Rate Student Loan Program Revenue Bonds with a nominal value of \$30,900,000 (Series 1), \$45,100,000 (Series 2), \$4,000,000 (Series 3). The Authority also issued Taxable Variable Rate Student Loan Program Revenue Bonds with a nominal value of \$30,000,000 (Series 4). In May 2007, the Series 1 bonds were converted from auction rate to fixed rate bonds paying interest at 4.85%. The 2002 Series 4 Bonds were retired in FY 2004. The 2002 Series 2 Bonds were redeemed in FY 2011. The 2002 Series 3 Bonds were redeemed and retired in FY 2012. The 2002 Series 1 Bonds were redeemed in FY 2016.

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2016 AND 2015

NOTE 6 – BONDS PAYABLE (CONTINUED)

On February 19, 2003, the Authority issued Tax Exempt Auction Rate Student Loan Program Revenue Bonds with nominal values of \$36,150,000 (Series 1) and \$73,850,000 (Series 2). The Authority also issued taxable auction rate Student Loan Program Revenue Bonds with a nominal value of \$30,000,000 (Series 3). The Series 2 and Series 3 bonds are auction rate securities bearing interest at a rate reset every thirty five days for the Series 2 and every twenty eight days for the Series 3. In May 2007, \$16,150,000 of the Series 1 bonds were converted from auction rate to fixed rate bonds paying interest at 4.85%. The existing auction rate at June 30, 2015 was .333% for Series 2. Proceeds of these issuances were used to refund \$8,900,000 of the August 21, 1992 Senior Series A bonds outstanding, \$1,100,000 of the August 21, 1992 Subordinate Series 1 bonds outstanding, \$10,000,000 of the September 28, 1993 Senior Series bonds outstanding, \$2,400,000 of the September 28, 1993 Subordinate Series 1 bonds outstanding and to originate and purchase eligible student loans. The Series 1 auction rate bonds were redeemed in FY 2013. The Series 3 auction rate bonds were redeemed in FY 2015. The Series 2 auction rate bonds were redeemed in FY 2016.

On April 29, 2003, the Authority issued Taxable Auction Rate Student Loan Program Revenue Bonds with nominal values of \$15,000,000 (Series 4) and \$15,000,000 (Series 5). The Series 4 and Series 5 bonds are auction rate securities bearing interest at a rate reset every twenty eight days. Proceeds of these issuances were used to originate and purchase eligible student loans. The 2003 Series 5 bonds were redeemed in FY 2010. The 2003 Series 4 bonds were redeemed in FY 2015. The 2003 Series 2 bonds were redeemed in FY 2016.

On January 21, 2004, the Authority issued Tax Exempt Auction Rate Student Loan Program Revenue Bonds with nominal values of \$38,000,000 (Series A1) and \$38,000,000 (Series A2). The Authority also issued Fixed Rate Student Loan Program Revenue Bonds with a nominal value of \$24,000,000 (Series A3). The Series A1 and Series A2 bonds are auction rate securities bearing interest at a rate reset every thirty five days. The existing auction rate at June 30, 2014 for Series A2 was .300%. The Series A3 bond paid interest ranging from 1.50% to 4.5% and originally matured between 2005 and 2018. Proceeds of these issuances were used to originate and purchase eligible student loans. The 2004 Series A1 bonds were redeemed in FY 2011. The 2004 Series A2 and 2004 Series A3 bonds were redeemed in FY 2015.

On July 27, 2006, the Authority issued Tax Exempt Auction Rate Student Loan Program Revenue Bonds with nominal values of \$30,000,000 (Series 1) and \$30,000,000 (Series 2). The Authority also issued Fixed Rate Student Loan Program Revenue Bonds with a nominal value of \$40,000,000 (Series 3). The Series 1 and Series 2 Bonds are auction rate securities bearing interest at a rate reset every thirty five days. The existing auction rate at June 30, 2016 and 2015 was 1.080% and .340%, respectively, for Series 1 and for Series 2. The Series 3 bond paid interest ranging from 4.6% to 4.9% and originally matured between 2007 and 2026. Proceeds of these issuances were used to originate and purchase eligible student loans. The 2006 Series 3 bonds were redeemed in FY 2013.

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2016 AND 2015

NOTE 6 – BONDS PAYABLE (CONTINUED)

On May 1, 2008, the Authority issued Tax Exempt Fixed Rate Student Loan Program Revenue Bonds with nominal values of \$60,000,000 (Senior Series A) and \$4,000,000 (Subordinated Series I). The Senior Series A bonds pays interest ranging from 4.75% to 6.00% and mature between 2013 and 2028. The Subordinated Series I bonds pays interest at 6.75% and mature in 2028. Proceeds of these issuances were used to originate and purchase eligible student loans.

On August 5, 2008, the Authority issued Tax Exempt Weekly Interest Rate Student Loan Program Revenue Bonds with nominal values of \$20,000,000 (Series B-1); \$20,000,000 (Series B-2); \$25,000,000 (Series B-3) and \$20,000,000 (Series B-4). The Authority also issued Taxable Weekly Interest Rate Student Loan Program Revenue Bonds with a nominal value of \$15,000,000 (Series B-5). The existing interest rate for the Series B-5 at June 30, 2013 was .150% and matures in 2048. Proceeds from the Series B-1, Series B-2 and Series B-3 were exchanged for the like principal amount of the 1996 Series I, Series II and Series III bonds (collectively the 1996 bonds). The 1996 bonds were canceled and are no longer outstanding under the indenture in which they were issued. Proceeds from the issuance of the Series B-4 and Series B-5 are used to originate and purchase eligible student loans. On August 30, 2012, the 2008 Series B1 through B4 bonds were refinanced and redeemed with the proceeds of the 2012 Series B bonds. On June 24, 2014, the 2008 Series B5, the 2011 Series A bonds and the 2012 Series B bonds were refinanced with the proceeds of the 2014-1 bonds.

On July 9, 2009, the Authority issued Tax Exempt Fixed Rate Student Loan Program Revenue Bonds with a nominal value of \$25,570,000 (Senior Series A). The Senior Series A bonds pays interest ranging from 4.20% to 6.35% and mature between 2013 and 2030. Proceeds of this issuance were used to originate and purchase eligible student loans.

On March 31, 2010, the Authority issued Tax Exempt Fixed Rate Student Loan Program Revenue Bonds with a nominal value of \$16,970,000 (Senior Series A). The Senior Series A bonds pays interest ranging from 2.25% to 5.25% and mature between 2013 and 2027. Proceeds of this issuance were used to originate and purchase eligible student loans.

On December 16, 2010, the Authority issued Tax Exempt Fixed Rate Student Loan Program Revenue Bonds with a nominal value of \$25,570,000 (Senior Series B). The Senior Series B bonds pays interest ranging from 2.00% to 5.00% and mature between 2012 and 2025. Proceeds of this issuance were used to originate and purchase eligible student loans.

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2016 AND 2015

NOTE 6 – BONDS PAYABLE (CONTINUED)

On October 6, 2011, the Authority issued Taxable Weekly Interest Rate Student Loan Program Revenue Bonds with a nominal value of \$18,000,000 (Senior Series A). The interest rate on the Senior Series A bonds is reset weekly. The interest rate for the Senior Series A bonds was ranged from .160% at June 30, 2012 and originally matured in 2051. Proceeds from this issuance were used to acquire eligible student loans financed by other bond issues of the Authority. On June 24, 2014, the 2011 Senior Series A bonds were refinanced and redeemed with the proceeds of the 2014-1 bonds.

On March 21, 2012, the Authority issued Tax Exempt Fixed Rate Student Loan Program Revenue Bonds with a nominal value of \$17,940,000 (Senior Series A). The Senior Series A bonds pays interest ranging from 2.00% to 4.00% and mature between 2013 and 2026. Proceeds of this issuance were used to originate and purchase eligible student loans.

On August 30, 2012, the Authority issued \$111,000,000 in 2012 Series-1 Taxable LIBOR Floating Rate Notes. The 2012 Series-1 Notes bear interest at a rate of one month LIBOR plus .90%. The interest rate resets on the second business day of each month. The notes have a final maturity date on July 1, 2031. On June 30, 2015 and 2014, interest on the 2012 Series-1 Notes was 1.35665% and 1.084%, respectively. Proceeds of the notes were used to finance eligible student loans and refund certain obligations of the Authority.

On August 30, 2012, the Authority issued \$78,000,000 in 2012 Series B Taxable Student Loan Program Revenue Bonds. The interest rate on the bonds resets weekly. The bonds had an original maturity date of June 1, 2052. On June 30, 2013 interest on the 2012-B Bonds was .12%. Proceeds of the bonds were used to finance eligible student loans and to refund and redeem the 2008 Series B-1 through B-4 Bonds. On June 24, 2014, the 2012 Series B bonds were refinanced with the proceeds of the 2014-1 bonds.

On November 19, 2012, the Authority issued \$260,000,000 in 2012-2 Taxable LIBOR Floating Rate Notes. The 2012-2 Notes bear interest at a rate of one month LIBOR plus .65%. The interest rate resets on the second business day of each month. The notes have a final maturity date of September 1, 2036. On June 30, 2015 and 2014, interest on the 2012-2 Notes was 1.10665% and .834%, respectively. Proceeds of the notes were used to finance eligible student loans and refund certain obligations of the Authority.

On March 8, 2013, the Authority issued \$67,525,000 in 2013 Tax Exempt Senior Series A Student Loan Program Revenue Bonds. The bonds are fixed rate with interest rates between 2.00% and 5.00% and maturities ranging from December 1, 2013 through December 1, 2027. Proceeds of the bonds were used to originate and purchase eligible student loans. Proceeds were also utilized to retire certain obligations of the Authority.

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2016 AND 2015

NOTE 6 – BONDS PAYABLE (CONTINUED)

On April 9, 2014, the Authority issued \$34,750,000 in 2014 Tax Exempt Senior Series A Student Loan Program Revenue Bonds. The bonds are fixed rate with interest rates between 4.00% and 5.00% and maturities ranging from December 1, 2015 through December 1, 2029. Costs to issue the bonds amounted to \$484,918. Proceeds of the bonds were used to originate and purchase eligible student loans and to fund the Debt Service Reserve Fund.

On June 24, 2014, the Authority issued \$93,100,000 in 2014-1 Taxable LIBOR Floating Rate Notes. The 2014-1 Notes bear interest at a rate of one month LIBOR plus .70%. The interest rate resets on the second business day of each month. The notes have a final maturity date of October 2, 2028. On June 30, 2015 and 2014, interest on the 2014-1 Notes were 1.15665% and .88400%, respectively. Proceeds of the notes were used to refund certain obligations of the Authority.

On April 21, 2015, the Authority issued \$41,365,000 in 2015 Tax Exempt Senior Series A Student Loan Program Revenue Bonds. The bonds are fixed rate with interest rates between 3.50% and 5.00% and maturities ranging from December 1, 2016 through December 1, 2031. Costs to issue the bonds amounted to \$516,974. Proceeds of the bonds were used to finance the origination of new non-federal loans or to refinance existing loans.

On May 18, 2016, the Authority issued \$55,000,000 in 2016 Tax Exempt Senior Series A Student Loan Program Revenue Bonds. The bonds are fixed rate with interest rates between 3.00% and 5.00% and maturities ranging from December 1, 2017 through December 1, 2034. Costs to issue the bonds amounted to \$592,769. Proceeds of the bonds were used to finance the origination of new non-federal loans or to refinance existing loans.

In 2016 and 2015, the Authority redeemed bonds from various Student Loan Program Revenue Bonds. The Bonds were retired at par or at a discount of the Bond's stated par value ranging from 98% to 100% and 90% to 100% in 2016 and 2015, respectively. \$37,385,000 and \$57,245,000 of the outstanding Bonds were redeemed which resulted in a gain in the amount of \$119,500 and \$20,000 in 2016 and 2015, respectively.

Payment of principal and interest on the 1997, 1998, 1999 2000, 2001 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2006 bonds are insured by a municipal bond insurance policy, issued by Ambac Assurance Corporation. Ambac's parent corporation emerged from bankruptcy under Chapter 11 of the U.S. bankruptcy code in May 2013. Standard and Poor's rating services and Fitch rating services have withdrawn rating on all debt insured by Ambac. Management strongly believes that the Authority will continue to meet its obligations under the bond issues and trust indentures insured by Ambac.

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2016 AND 2015

NOTE 6 – BONDS PAYABLE (CONTINUED)

Interest on all tax-exempt bonds issued by the Authority is payable semi-annually. Interest on taxable variable rate demand obligation bonds is paid on the first business day of every month. The bonds are secured by eligible student loans, monies in restricted funds established by the trust indenture including investment earnings, payment of principal and interest, federal interest subsidy payments, special allowance payments, claim payments by guarantors, and proceeds of any sale or assignment by the Authority of any loans.

Pursuant to the terms of the various Trust Indentures, the Authority placed the proceeds of the bonds into various restricted funds. The loan fund was established to account for all recoveries of principal and any amounts which are required to be deposited therein pursuant to the Trust Indentures and to fund the origination and purchase of eligible student loans as described in the Trust Indenture. The revenue fund was established for the recoveries of interest investment earnings from all accounts and for interest payments. The reserve fund was established for the payment of interest in the event that the Authority does not have sufficient funds from other sources.

The required reserve for the March 1997, April 1998, Series 1, 2 and 3 of the March 2000, February 2002, February 2003, and April 2003 Bond issues is 2% of principal bonds outstanding. The required reserve for the January 2004 and July 2006 Bond issues is 1% of principal bonds outstanding. The required reserve for the May 2008 bond issue is 4% of the principal bonds outstanding. The required reserve for the July 2009, March 2010, December 2010, March 2012, March 2013, April 2014, April 2015 and May 2016 Bond issues is 3% of principal bonds outstanding with a minimum requirement of \$2,418,150 for all outstanding senior obligations. The required reserve for the August 2012 bond issue is the greater of .25% of the principal bonds outstanding or \$250,000. The required reserve for the November 2012 bond issue is the greater of .25% of principal bonds outstanding or \$390,000. The Authority has purchased a surety bond issued by Ambac to fulfill the debt reserve fund obligation for the March 2000, February 2002, April 2003 and July 2006 Bond issues.

The Trust Indentures also require the establishment of other restricted funds (administrative and rebate funds). The Authority also established the restricted clearing account to account for transfers between restricted funds.

The Authority has been in compliance with the respective debt covenants as outlined in the Trust Indentures for fiscal years 2016 and 2015.

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2016 AND 2015

NOTE 6 – BONDS PAYABLE (CONTINUED)

The following schedule summarizes the Authority’s outstanding bonds payable as of June 30:

Bond Issue	2016	2015
March 1997 Series 1	\$ --	\$ 10,700,000
February 2002 Series 1	--	2,300,000
February 2003 Series 2	--	1,700,000
July 2006 Series 1	2,450,000	11,550,000
Series 2	16,850,000	20,550,000
May 2008 Senior Series A	24,235,000	31,210,000
Subordinated Series 1	4,000,000	4,000,000
July 2009 Senior Series A	14,530,000	16,030,000
March 2010 Senior Series A	12,490,000	14,440,000
December 2010 Senior Series B	16,965,000	20,055,000
March 2012 Senior Series A	14,490,000	16,090,000

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2016 AND 2015

NOTE 6 – BONDS PAYABLE (CONTINUED)

August 2012		
Series 2012-1	58,301,000	70,493,000
November 2012		
Series 2012-2	141,569,000	175,070,000
March 2013		
Senior Series A	53,225,000	58,525,000
April 2014		
Senior Series A	33,750,000	34,750,000
June 2014		
Series 2014-1	67,074,000	79,332,000
April 2015		
Series 2015-A	41,365,000	41,365,000
June 2016-A		
Series 2016-A	<u>55,000,000</u>	<u> --</u>
Subtotal	556,294,000	608,160,000
Add: Premium	5,490,638	4,448,743
Less: Discount	1,450,486	1,082,067
Less: Current portion	<u>14,025,000</u>	<u>11,530,000</u>
Total	<u>\$ 546,309,152</u>	<u>\$ 599,996,676</u>

The following schedule reflects the changes in bonds payable:

Balance at June 30, 2014	\$ 698,572,000
Additions	41,365,000
Redemptions	<u>(131,777,000)</u>
Balance at June 30, 2015	608,160,000
Additions	55,000,000
Redemptions	<u>(106,866,000)</u>
Balance at June 30, 2016	<u>\$ 556,294,000</u>

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2016 AND 2015

NOTE 7 – NOTES PAYABLE AND LINE OF CREDIT

On December 30, 2014, the Authority entered into a line of credit agreement with a bank (The Line) to borrow up to \$10,000,000. The Line originally expired on June 30, 2016, and bore interest at a rate of one month LIBOR plus 1.25%. Per the terms of the Line Agreement, the Authority has the option to convert the Line into a term note, which occurred on February 13, 2015, as noted below. The Line was collateralized by certain loans including all of those originated by the Authority from advances under the Line as well certain additional pledged assets.

On December 29, 2015, the Authority entered into a line of credit agreement with a bank (The Line) to borrow up to \$10,000,000. The Line expires on December 29, 2016, and the interest rate is one month LIBOR plus 1.25%. Per the terms of the Line Agreement, the Authority has the option to convert the Line into a term note. The Line was collateralized by certain loans including all of those originated by the Authority from advances under the Line as well certain additional pledged assets.

On February 13, 2015, the Authority converted the amount outstanding under The Line of \$3,739,244 into a term note (the February 2015 Note). The February 2015 Note matures on February 12, 2022 and has an interest rate of 3.14%. Principal payments of \$44,515 plus interest are due on the 13th of every month, beginning on March 13, 2015. During FY 2016, the Company drew an additional \$5,000,000 on the Line, which was subsequently converted to two separate term notes, as described below. On September 23, 2015, \$3,000,000 was converted into a term note (the September 2015 Note). The September 2015 Note matures on August 23, 2019 and has an interest rate of 2.51%. Principal payments of \$63,830 plus interest are due on the 23rd of every month, beginning on October 23, 2015. On December 22, 2015, \$2,000,000 was converted into a term note (the December 2015 Note). The December Note matures on January 22, 2023 and has an interest rate of 3.29%. Principal payments of \$23,529 plus interest are due on the 22nd of every month, beginning on January 22, 2016. As of June 30, 2016, the total principal balance outstanding under the February 2015 Note, the September Note and the December Notes was collectively \$7,311,362. In addition, the Authority can also borrow up to an additional \$10,000,000 against The Line as of June 30, 2016.

As part of the above financings, the Authority was required to meet certain financial covenants. As of June 30, 2016, the Authority was in compliance with these covenants.

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2016 AND 2015

NOTE 7 – NOTES PAYABLE AND LINE OF CREDIT (CONTINUED)

Debt service requirements for bonds and notes payable at June 30, 2016 were as follows:

Bonds				Term Note				Total Long Term Debt			
Year	Principal	Interest	Total	Year	Principal	Interest	Total	Year	Principal	Interest	Total
2017	14,025,000	14,913,610	28,938,610	2017	1,582,488	258,512	1,841,000	2017	15,607,488	15,172,123	30,779,611
2018	17,565,000	14,249,912	31,814,912	2018	1,582,488	258,512	1,841,000	2018	19,147,488	14,508,425	33,655,913
2019	17,615,000	13,391,914	31,006,914	2019	1,327,169	233,412	1,560,581	2019	18,942,169	13,625,327	32,567,496
2020	19,475,000	12,638,329	32,113,329	2020	816,531	183,212	999,743	2020	20,291,531	12,821,542	33,113,072
2021	20,400,000	11,863,563	32,263,563	2021	816,531	183,212	999,743	2021	21,216,531	12,046,775	33,263,306
2022-2026	112,510,000	45,304,062	157,814,062	2022-2026	394,912	90,852	485,764	2022-2026	112,904,912	45,394,914	158,299,826
2027-2031	125,234,000	23,436,660	148,670,660	2027-2031	-	-	-	2027-2031	125,234,000	23,436,660	148,670,660
2032-2036	68,601,000	9,834,777	78,435,777	2032-2036	-	-	-	2032-2036	68,601,000	9,834,777	78,435,777
2037-2041	160,869,000	1,192,688	162,061,688	2037-2041	-	-	-	2037-2041	160,869,000	1,192,688	162,061,688
	<u>556,294,000</u>	<u>146,825,516</u>	<u>703,119,516</u>		<u>6,520,118</u>	<u>1,207,713</u>	<u>7,727,831</u>		<u>562,814,118</u>	<u>148,033,229</u>	<u>710,847,347</u>

NOTE 8 – ACCRUED ARBITRAGE REBATE

Accrued arbitrage rebate at June 30, 2016 and 2015 consisted of the following:

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Current portion	\$ --	\$ --
Noncurrent portion	<u>2,611,736</u>	<u>2,246,320</u>
Total Accrued Arbitrage Rebate	<u><u>\$ 2,611,736</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 2,246,320</u></u>

The following schedule reflects the changes in accrued arbitrage rebate:

Balance at June 30, 2014	\$ 1,818,042
Increase in earnings above permitted yield	645,651
Decrease in earnings below permitted yield	(162,676)
Payments	<u>(54,697)</u>
Balance at June 30, 2015	2,246,320
Increase in earnings above permitted yield	464,419
Decrease in earnings below permitted yield	(27,555)
Payments	<u>(71,448)</u>
Balance at June 30, 2016	<u><u>\$ 2,611,736</u></u>

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2016 AND 2015

NOTE 9 – LOAN SERVICING AGREEMENTS

In April 2011, the Authority entered into a servicing agreement with Nelnet Servicing LLC (Nelnet), under which Nelnet collects and accounts for the principal and interest on FFELP loans originated and purchased by the Authority and placed with Nelnet for servicing for a monthly fee, which is based on the borrower status of the loans being serviced. Nelnet is also responsible for servicing the loans in a diligent manner according to regulations established by the DOE. This agreement is in effect until terminated or modified.

In July 1992, the Authority entered into a servicing agreement with Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Authority (PHEAA) under which PHEAA collects and accounts for the principal and interest on the Rhode Island Family Education Loans placed with PHEAA for servicing for a monthly fee which is based on the number of loans in repayment status. PHEAA is also responsible for servicing the loans in a diligent manner according to the terms of the servicing contract. The agreement continues on a month to month basis until a new agreement is entered into.

In July 2010, the Authority entered into a servicing agreement with University Accounting Services (UAS) under which UAS provides access to their servicing system software and the Authority collects and accounts for the principal and interest on the private loans that the Authority originated. UAS is responsible for maintaining the servicing system. The fees charged are based upon the volume and types of loans being serviced on a monthly basis. The contract does call for certain payments to be processed by UAS and these transactions are charged on a per transaction basis. This agreement is in effect until terminated or modified.

In June 2003, the Authority entered into a servicing agreement with Great Lakes Educational Loan Services, Inc. (Great Lakes) under which Great Lakes collects and accounts for principal and interest on FFELP loans originated and purchased by the Authority and placed with Great Lakes for servicing for a monthly fee, which is detailed in the agreement. Great Lakes is also responsible for servicing loans in a diligent manner according to regulations established by DOE. This agreement is in effect until terminated or modified.

In December 2012, the Authority entered into a servicing agreement with Aspire Resources Inc. to perform all servicing activities related to Federal Student Loans that were allocated to the Authority as an eligible Not for Profit Servicer under the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (HCERA). The contract with the DOE allowed Aspire to add the Authority as a Key Subcontractor. Aspire is responsible for servicing all of the federal accounts according to the DOE Contract and pays the Authority a monthly fee based upon the borrower status of the loans being serviced. In addition, Aspire paid the Authority a one-time up-front fee of \$715,000 which is deferred and amortized over the term of 4 years.

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2016 AND 2015

NOTE 9 – LOAN SERVICING AGREEMENTS (CONTINUED)

The contract originally expired on March 31, 2017. However, in July 2015, the U.S. Department of Education approved the transfer of responsibilities for servicing federal student loans within the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program that were serviced by Aspire to the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority (MOHELA). The transfer of loans from Aspire to MOHELA was completed in September 2015. At that time the contract with Aspire terminated and a servicing agreement with MOHELA took effect. As a result, the Authority recognized the remaining unamortized up-front fee balance of \$312,808 in revenue in FY 2016. RISLA recognized \$178,752 of revenue in FY 2015. The amount outstanding at June 30, 2016 and 2015 is \$0 and \$312,808, respectively, and is recorded as “unavailable revenue - direct loan servicing” on the accompanying statements of net position.

The Authority received \$234,859 and \$340,942 in monthly revenue from Aspire and MOHELA to service the Federal Student Loans for the years ended June 30, 2016 and 2015, respectively and this revenue is recorded as “fee income” in the accompanying statements of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position.

NOTE 10 – DEFINED CONTRIBUTION RETIREMENT PLAN

In July 1989, the Authority established a defined single-employer contribution plan named Rhode Island Student Loan Authority pursuant to Section 403 (b) of the Internal Revenue Code, which provides pension benefits for all of its full-time employees. In a defined contribution plan, benefits depend solely on amounts contributed to the plan plus investment earnings and less expenses. The assets of the plan are held with the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association and the College Retirement Equities Fund. Employees are eligible to participate on the first of the month following employment. The Authority contributes 10% of the employee's salary each month and all contributions and investment earnings are fully vested immediately. Employer contributions for 2016 and 2015 amounted to \$249,449 and \$243,536, respectively. Employee contributions for 2016 and 2015 amounted to \$162,109 and \$154,639 respectively. All plan provisions and amendments require the approval of the Authority's Board of Directors. There are no post-retirement benefits for Authority employees.

NOTE 11 – RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Governor of the State of Rhode Island proposed, under Article 7 of the State of Rhode Island FY 2016 budget to create a Division of Higher Education Assistance (DHEA) in the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner (OPC). The budget was passed by the General Assembly and went into effect on July 1, 2015. This action transferred all rights, assets, powers and obligations of the Rhode Island Higher Education Assistance Authority (RIHEAA), including their role as a guarantor participating in the Federal Family Education Loan Program to the OPC and confirmed the Commissioner of Postsecondary Education as the new executive director of DHEA.

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2016 AND 2015

NOTE 11 – RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS (CONTINUED)

The Rhode Island Student Loan Authority is a related party to OPC. The outstanding FFELP loans guaranteed by DHEA were \$259,319,057 and \$311,793,221 at June 30, 2016 and 2015, respectively.

Facility lease expense paid to OPC for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2016 and 2015 was approximately \$116,263 for both fiscal years.

NOTE 12 – RISK MANAGEMENT

The Authority is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; errors and omissions; and workers' compensation claims for which the Authority carries commercial insurance. Settled claims resulting from these risks have not exceeded the Authority's coverage in any of the past three fiscal years and there have been no significant reductions in insurance coverage. Accordingly, management has estimated the reserve for such claims to be \$-0- at June 30, 2016 and 2015.

NOTE 13 – SUBSEQUENT EVENT

The Authority has evaluated subsequent events through September 30, 2016, the date these financial statements were authorized for issuance. There were no subsequent events that required recognition or additional disclosure in these financial statements.



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

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board Members
Rhode Island Student Loan Authority

We have audited, 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, the financial statements of the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority (a related organization to the State of Rhode Island), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2016, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated September 30, 2016.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority'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 opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority'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 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.

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Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority'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 the entity'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.

Marcum LLP

Providence, RI
September 30, 2016



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