



# Rhode Island Student Loan Authority

## ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year Ended  
June 30, 2018  
And Dated  
December 31, 2018



**RISLA**  
RHODE ISLAND STUDENT  
LOAN AUTHORITY

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

Charles P. Kelley, *Executive Director*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	2
Highlights 2018	3 - 6
Looking Ahead	7
Programs Administered	8 - 10
Meeting Minutes and Rules and Regulations	11
Operating Statement Summarizing Board of Directors Meetings	12 - 14
Staff Supported by RISLA Funds	15
Training Courses Held	15
RISLA Financial Report	16
Appendix	
RISLA Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2018	Appendix 1 - 45

## INTRODUCTION

It is with great pride that we present the 2018 annual report for the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority (RISLA). This year marked that 37<sup>th</sup> year of our organization serving as the statewide leader in offering services and programs to make higher education a reality for students and families. As a trusted nonprofit state agency, RISLA provides low cost state-based education loans, reward programs for important professions, and loan forgiveness efforts. Our interest rates are among the lowest of any provider in the country, and we ensure that borrowers receive education and financial literacy guidance to make responsible decisions.

RISLA is home to the College Planning Center of Rhode Island (CPCRI or CPC). 2018 marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CPCRI, which offers free admissions and financial aid assistance from a team of seasoned higher education professionals. Our college planning efforts reached over 16,000 students and families this year, through one-on-one counseling at offices throughout the state.

As always, we remain extremely proud of the wide variety of education loan programs offered at our agency. In 2018, we provided an array of options to pay for college, including student and parent loans with no origination fees and discounts for enrolling in automatic payments. Our signature fixed rate RISLA Student Loan program includes interest rates as low as 3.99% for immediate repayment and 6.24% for deferred repayment with no fees. These rates are substantially less than the federal government's Parent (PLUS) loan at 7.6% plus a 4.2% upfront fee. RISLA's fixed interest rates are among the lowest in the country.

Along with our loan programs, we are proud of our efforts to ensure student success. We continue to offer a free internship finder through bRidge.jobs, a program run by RISLA staff that connects students seeking internships with local employers and a loan forgiveness program for our student borrowers who complete a qualifying internship. RISLA also offers its borrowers a rewards programs that include interest free repayment terms on loans for nurses and other health professionals that commit to staying in Rhode Island after graduation. We also distributed \$50,000 in scholarships to deserving Rhode Islanders pursuing a higher education. All of these initiatives are provided to students and families independent of any funding or appropriation from the State of Rhode Island.

This report highlights a host of initiatives and services that RISLA was proud to offer in 2018. 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 Sandra Mack, Secretary/Treasurer Daniel Egan, Christine Jenkins, and General Treasurer Seth Magaziner.



Charles P. Kelley  
Executive Director



Noel Simpson  
Deputy Director

## HIGHLIGHTS 2018

In 2018, 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 \$56,400,000 Million in Safe, Fixed-Rate Loans in 2018**

During the 2018/2019 academic year, RISLA offered \$56,400,000 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 for 2018/2019 loans. The rate students and families receive depends on the repayment option they choose, not on their 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% (after a discount for auto payments). 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 6.24% (after a discount for auto payments). These rates made Rhode Island's education loan offerings one of the best in the country.

RISLA offered a Parent Loan program for 2018/2019, featuring a 10-year loan at a fixed rate as low as 5.24% (with a discount for auto payments). The Parent Loan carried no prepayment penalties and no origination fees. RISLA's interest rate on this loan compares quite favorably to the 7.6% offered on the federal PLUS loan. The agency also offered a student loan refinancing option with a fixed interest rate as low as 3.49%. Refinancing loan options were offered with terms of 5, 10, or 15 years, with the ability to refinance up to \$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.

### **Additional RISLA Loan Features**

As the leading nonprofit resource for Rhode Island students and families, RISLA strives to help people borrow responsibly. Along with providing financial literacy tools, borrowing guides, and in-person support, RISLA is proud to stand by its loan products. Features also include easy online applications with quick pre-qualification; a multi-year application; options for delayed or immediate repayment; the choice of borrowing in the student or parent's name; no application, origination, or upfront fees of any kind; borrower protections – including income based repayment to make payments more affordable; cosigner release to qualifying students after the first 24 months of consecutive on-time payments; and loan forgiveness in the unfortunate case where the student borrower is deceased or has a total and permanent disability.

### **RISLA Leads Way in Student Lending Innovation**

In April, RISLA announced a new mobile technology and identity verification tool to streamline the loan application process. The fully mobile service allows users to securely and privately access rate offerings and determine their eligibility for a RISLA loan from their phone with minimal data entry. Once pre-qualified, borrowers can complete an online application, upload image captures of any documents needed for the application process, and electronically sign from their mobile device or

continue the application process on a home computer. The service is available by texting “college” to 24000. This new text-to-college initiative is another example of RISLA leveraging new technology to provide an enhanced customer service experience for students and families on the go.

## **Loan Reward Programs Continue to Assist Rhode Island Nurses**

RISLA continued its longstanding commitment of offering students more ways to save on their education through its loan forgiveness programs. For many years, RISLA has provided reward programs for those working as nurses or nurse educators in the state. The Nursing Rewards program provides graduates who remain in Rhode Island to work as nurses a zero percent interest on RISLA in-school loans for up to four years.

## **Loan Forgiveness for Internships**

Along with RISLA’s loan reward programs for nurses, the organization is proud of its loan forgiveness program for students who participate in internships. The program is designed to reduce student indebtedness while helping them improve their marketability to employers after college. Under the program, students can earn loan forgiveness up to \$2,000 by completing an eligible internship. The program is open to all Rhode Island students or those attending an institution of higher education in the state.

## **bRIdge.jobs Continues to Match Students with Local Internships**

2018 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.

Over 7,000 students have registered with bRIdge.Jobs to find an internship, and companies have posted over 1,700 internship opportunities in Rhode Island. The program is a partnership of the Governor’s Workforce Board, the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Rhode Island, the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce, Social Enterprise Greenhouse, and eleven colleges and universities.

## **RISLA Working with Area Employers with Free Tool to Conquer Student Debt**

Following a successful launch in the fall of last year, RISLA continues its efforts 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. RISLA staff members are working with area employers to implement this free tool to employees facing the challenges of student loan repayment.

## **RISLA's Ongoing 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 college, understanding of general financial terms, basic budgeting, credit, and much more. RISLA and its board remain committed to the principle of borrowing responsibly and properly managing finances as an important key to student success.

## **RISLA Access Scholarship Awards**

For the fifteenth consecutive year, RISLA was proud to award 25 scholarships to deserving Rhode Islanders. The \$50,000 in scholarships was awarded randomly to qualified students from across Rhode Island at a May 31<sup>st</sup> ceremony in the State House. RISLA Access Scholarships are awarded to Rhode Island residents who submit a copy of their federal student aid report showing an expected family contribution of \$13,800 or less. This year, RISLA kicked off an informational campaign about the RISLA Access Scholarship program with an event in April at Middletown High School featuring URI Provost Dean LiButti.

## **College Planning Center Celebrates 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

U.S. Senator Jack Reed headlined a group of dignitaries and officials to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the College Planning Center of RI in October. RISLA Executive Director Charles Kelley welcomed Sen. Reed, General Treasurer Seth Magaziner, Warwick Mayor Joseph Solomon, and RISLA Board Chair Robert Delaney to the Warwick Mall event where each offered celebratory remarks. Sen. Reed has been a champion of the CPCRI since it first opened in 1998. He lauded the center for serving over 16,000 families annually and completing over 4,400 FAFSA in the past year.

## **Expanded Hours and Outreach for Families at the College Planning Center**

In 2018, the CPCRI expanded its hours to better serve the over 16,000 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 Board's Profile application. As always, the CPC's services are free of charge. During the year, the CPCRI staffed an office at the Warwick Mall, and a new Northern Rhode Island office in Lincoln. Expanded hours during 2018 included nights and weekend sessions, complemented by the CPCRI's interactive website: [www.collegeplanningcenter.org](http://www.collegeplanningcenter.org).

## **College Planning Center Hosts Ninth Annual PawSox College Fair**

On September 20<sup>th</sup>, 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 country. 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 for the event. Students who pre-registered for the event were also eligible for a scholarship drawing.

## **College Planning Center Opens New Office in Lincoln**

In March the CPCRI opened its new office at 652 George Washington Highway in Lincoln. The center previously operated an office in the northern part of the state at the Boys & Girls Club of Cumberland. The new location is centrally located and convenient for students and families throughout northern Rhode Island. The location has immediate highway access and offers a modern inviting space for one-on-one counseling. CPCRI Director Stacy Crooks celebrated the opening of the new Lincoln location, which received prominent coverage in the local media.

## **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 at high schools throughout Rhode Island, including East Providence High School, Johnston High School, Central Falls High School, Middletown High School, Rogers High School, and Woonsocket High School.

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

U.S. Senator Jack Reed held his 28<sup>th</sup> annual College Aid Workshop at the Community College of Rhode Island in Warwick on November 19<sup>th</sup>. 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 participated in Senator Reed's college aid workshops for 28 years.

## LOOKING AHEAD

2018 has been a remarkable year at RISLA. We continue to serve as the leading resource for Rhode Island students and families seeking a higher education. Our commitment to student success lies in education financing options that are diverse. We also pride ourselves in educating borrowers with financial literacy tools and offering free one-on-one counseling through RISLA's College Planning Center. We have fulfilled our mission to Rhode Islanders for over 37 years and look forward to continuing our leadership role in a very challenging higher education marketplace.

As we enter the new year, the landscape in higher education continues to evolve. There is significant competition from for-profit lenders who utilize aggressive marketing techniques to capture education financing business. There has also been growing calls in Washington for reductions in federal loans for parents and graduate students, which requires us to adapt to the changing market.

The traditional college planning process is also seeing change. The FAFSA application period now begins on October 1<sup>st</sup> instead of January 1<sup>st</sup>. This requires our College Planning Center to alter its calendar for financial aid counseling and requires a greater degree of outreach earlier in high school and in some cases at the middle school level. Fortunately, our team of college planning professionals continues to provide unmatched outreach and service to students and families throughout our state.

The competitive market forces we face are not taken lightly. We are seeing a number of new education loan lenders entering the marketplace. These lenders are gaining market share by lowering credit standards and offering inducements for new business. RISLA is committed to continuing its outreach and education efforts to ensure that borrowers are well informed and making responsible decisions. Our history of maintaining traditional credit standards has served students and families well, and we will not waver in our commitment to be a responsible nonprofit resource. The fact that RISLA in-school loans only have a net default rate of 2% prove that our counseling and approval process protects our students and families.

We are excited to enter 2019 with so much positive momentum. We employed new mobile technologies in the past year that will make accessing our loan options easier and more convenient for students and families. We will continue to offer flexible repayment terms, refinancing options, and interest rates that are among the best in the country. RISLA is well positioned to continue its role as the trusted Rhode Island leader in student success.

# SUMMARY OF RISLA PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED

Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

## 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 Loans.

- On May 15, 2018, RISLA issued Tax Exempt Fixed Rate Student Loan Program Revenue Bonds in the amount of \$72,325,000. The purpose of this bond issue was to fund fixed rate student loans originated in FY 2019 and refund RISLA's 2008 Series A and Subordinate Series 1.
- On July 17, 2018 RISLA issued Taxable Fixed Rate Student Loan Program Revenue Bonds in the amount of \$35,000,000. The purpose of this bond issue was to fund fixed rate refinancing loans in FY 2019.
- RISLA also offers loan programs for the parents of college students and a refinancing loan program that's designed to help student loan borrowers reduce their debt service, loan interest rate and possibly their monthly payment.

## RISLA Education Loans

- For the 2018/19 academic year, RISLA offers a 10-year RISLA Student Loan with a fixed rate as low as 3.99%, after a discount of .25% for auto payments for borrowers who choose an immediate repayment loan. In addition, 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 2018/19 academic year, RISLA offers a 10-year college loan for parents with a fixed rate of 5.24%, after a discount of .25% for auto payments. 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 borrowers who are considering refinancing 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.
- The College Planning Center of Rhode Island assisted 15,846 parents and students through in-person counseling and seminars to assist with their college planning needs in FY 2018.
- The CPCRI website located at [www.RISLA.com](http://www.RISLA.com) contains many financial aid and admissions resources including a scholarship search service containing many locally based scholarships.

## **RISLA's Access Scholarship Fund**

- \$50,000 need based annual scholarship fund.
- RISLA has funded 375 need based scholarships totaling \$750,000 from FY 2004 through FY 2018.

## **Nursing Rewards Programs**

- RISLA offers a zero interest loan for the first four years of repayment through the Nursing Program. Eligible applicants must have a RISLA Student Loan or RISLA Parent Loan issued between July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2019, and work in a licensed Rhode Island facility providing direct patient care.
- Fifty-three nurses are currently enrolled in the Rewards programs. An eligible nursing student with \$15,000 loan balance can potentially save over \$2,000 in interest payments with RISLA's rewards programs.

## 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.
- Information on the Authority's programs is available by calling 1-800-758-7562 or locally at 401-468-1700 or on the web at [www.RISLA.com](http://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, 2018 can be found on the Office of Secretary of State's website at the following address: <https://opengov.sos.ri.gov/OpenMeetings>

RISLA's promulgated rules and regulations can be found on the Office of Secretary of State's website at the following address: <https://rules.sos.ri.gov/organizations/title/850>

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, 2018

### Board meeting Date: July 21, 2017

Items discussed and voted:

1. Discussed and reviewed State Transparency requirements
2. Discussed RISLA's short term and long term strategic plan
3. Voted to increase the salaries for the Executive Director and Deputy Director by 5% retroactive to July 1, 2016 and 3% effective July 1, 2017

### Board meeting Date: September 22, 2017

Items discussed and voted:

1. Voted to approve the 2017 audited Financial Report
2. Voted to adopt RISLA's Employee Travel Expense Reimbursement Policy, which follows state guidelines
3. Voted to adopt RISLA's Executive Session Policy and Procedures which comply with the Open Meeting Act

### Board meeting Date: October 20, 2017

Items discussed and voted:

1. Discussed and reviewed bids for bond counsel and/or special counsel
2. Voted to select Locke Lord and Nixon Peabody as Bond Counsel to be utilized on a rotational basis
3. Voted to select Nixon Peabody and Orrick Herrington as Special Counsel, as needed,
4. Voted to approve sponsorship/advertising for RI Jump Start Financial Literacy Capability Conference

**Board Meeting Date: January 19, 2018**

Items discussed and voted:

1. Discussed the closing of the Bristol College Planning Center
2. Discussed financial literacy initiatives
3. Reviewed the Annual Report
4. Voted to approve advertising at the Academic Decathlon and annual membership with AICURI

**Board Meeting Date: March 30, 2018**

Items discussed and voted:

1. Discussed House legislation introducing a student loan ombudsman
2. Voted to approve a bond issuance resolution for the 2018/2019 school year funding
3. Voted to approve the bond issuance cost budget
4. Discussed and reviewed bids for continuing disclosure services
5. Voted to select BLX as RISLA's Continuing Disclosure Firm

**Board Meeting Date: May 18, 2018**

Items discussed and voted:

1. Discussed and reviewed bids for audit firms
2. Voted to select Marcum LLP as RISLA's Audit Firm
3. Discussed bond closing
4. Discussed the California requirement of background checks for board members during application process for state of California Student Loan Servicing License

**Board Meeting Date: June 15, 2018**

Items discussed and voted:

1. Discussed and reviewed updated strategic plan
2. Voted to approve and adopt revised strategic plan
3. Discussed taxable bond issue for a refinancing program
4. Voted to approve the taxable bond issue authorizing resolution for a refinancing program
5. Voted to approve the bond issuance budget
6. Voted to approve the FYE 2019 budget
7. Discussed the process for the annual staff reviews as required by the state transparency act

## **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 2018, 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 2018**

On the next several pages is 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, 2018. 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](http://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, 2018 AND 2017**

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

**CONTENTS**

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<b>Independent Auditors' Report</b> .....	<b>1-3</b>
<b>Management's Discussion and Analysis</b> .....	<b>4-8</b>
<b>Financial Statements</b>	
<b>Statements of Net Position</b> .....	<b>9-10</b>
<b>Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>Statements of Cash Flows</b> .....	<b>12-13</b>
<b>Notes to Financial Statements</b> .....	<b>14-41</b>
<b>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</b> .....	<b>42-43</b>

## **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, 2018 and 2017, 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 financial position of the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority as of June 30, 2018, 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 28, 2018 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 28, 2018

# **RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY**

## **MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

**JUNE 30, 2018**

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, 2018. 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 2018, 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 4.49% fixed rate with automatic payment. Students could also choose a deferred repayment option at a fixed rate of 6.49% 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 2018 a ten-year parent loan with a fixed interest rate of 5.49% with automatic payment. RISLA was able to offer these low fixed rates as well as eliminate any upfront or origination fees for all borrowers. RISLA originated approximately \$50 million in Rhode Island Fixed rate loans to borrowers in FY 2018.

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 provides existing borrowers the opportunity to ease their financial burden with the security of low, fixed rates and favorable repayment terms. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018, RISLA refinanced approximately \$29.5 million of student loans for 602 borrowers. Utilizing the financial strength of its Statements of Net Position, RISLA was able to secure lines of credit from two commercial banks to help fund the refinancing of student loans. The refinancing program helped borrowers save on average over \$7,000 in interest costs over the term of the loan. RISLA has secured \$35 million to fund its student loan refinancing program in FY 2019.

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](http://www.bridge-jobs). The partnership and website has, as of June 30, 2018, cumulatively registered 8,320 students, 1,315 employers, and listed 1,922 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 2018, the staff at the CPC provided assistance to approximately 15,846 individuals. The College Planning Center currently operates two locations which are in Warwick and Lincoln. 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 program, RISLA manages all aspects of student loan forgiveness according to policy guidelines established by the Foundation. The program offers student loan forgiveness to qualified applicants for four professions, Primary Care Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Physicians Assistants, and Oral Health Professionals. Funding for the primary care and oral health loan forgiveness programs have 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 \$2.5 million in funds for the programs and has assisted 61 professionals.

RISLA issued \$72,325,000 in new bonds in FY 2018, which will be used to fund RISLA's education loan programs in FY 2019.

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 \$188,137,347 at June 30, 2018.

### **Financial Highlights**

RISLA continues 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 26 years. RISLA originated approximately \$50 million in Rhode Island Fixed Rate student loans in the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018 and was able to secure financing to originate another \$72,325,000 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019.

Bonds payable decreased from \$506,569,000 on June 30, 2017 to \$478,432,000 on June 30, 2018. This represents a decrease of \$28,137,000 or 5.55%. In FY 2018, RISLA issued \$72,325,000 in new fixed rate bonds. RISLA redeemed \$100,462,000 in bonds through redemptions of auction rate securities and other scheduled bond payments.

Student loan revenues (net of Department of Education Special Allowance Payments) increased from \$29,336,982 on June 30, 2017 to \$31,387,687 on June 30, 2018. This represents an increase in income of \$2,050,707 or 7%. This increase was the result of the increased volume in Fiscal Year 2018 for RISLA fixed rate loans and refinanced loans.

## **Overview of the Financial Statement**

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**

**Total Assets** – Student loan receivables are the largest component of assets and decreased from \$605,979,140 on June 30, 2016 to \$569,872,638 on June 30, 2017, which represents a decrease of 5.96%. Student loan receivables amounted to \$547,091,886 on June 30, 2018, a decrease of 4.00% as compared to June 30, 2017. 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, 2016 equaled \$118,146,012. Restricted cash and investments equaled \$116,507,686 and \$117,859,724 on June 30, 2017 and 2018, respectively. Restricted cash and investment balances are primarily used to acquire student loans, retire bond and other bank debt, and pay semiannual interest payments.

**Total Liabilities** – Total liabilities at June 30, 2018 decreased by \$18,849,251 as compared to June 30, 2017, which represents a decrease of 3.55%. The decrease was primarily due to the reduction of bond debt. On June 30, 2016 bond debt outstanding, net of unamortized bond premium and discount, amounted to \$560,334,152. On June 30, 2017 bond debt outstanding amounted to \$511,244,848. On June 30, 2018 bond debt outstanding amounted to \$484,565,487.

**Net Position** – For fiscal year ended June 30, 2018, the Authority's total assets exceeded the total liabilities by \$178,003,573 for an increase of 3.94% as compared to June 30, 2017. At June 30, 2017 the total assets exceeded the total liabilities by \$171,264,058 which was an increase of 4.28% as compared to June 30, 2016. A condensed summary of the Authority's net assets at June 30 is shown below.

## Statement of Net Position

	2018	2017	Percentage Change	2016	Percentage Change
Current and non-current assets	\$ 693,017,115	\$ 706,379,676	-1.89%	\$ 745,142,691	-5.20%
Capital assets	227,386	289,242	-21.39%	335,472	-13.78%
Total Assets	693,244,501	706,668,918	-1.90%	745,478,163	-5.21%
Current liabilities	24,352,497	24,993,541	-2.56%	20,973,544	19.17%
Noncurrent liabilities	488,013,372	506,221,579	-3.60%	554,649,762	-8.73%
Total liabilities	512,365,869	531,215,120	-3.55%	575,623,306	-7.71%
Deferred Inflows of Resources	2,875,059	4,189,740	-31.38%	5,612,407	-25.35%
Net Position					
Investment in capital assets, net of related debt	227,386	289,242	-21.39%	335,472	-13.78%
Restricted for debt service	112,580,954	116,130,540	-3.06%	110,454,932	5.14%
Unrestricted	65,195,233	54,844,276	18.87%	53,452,046	2.60%
Total Net Position	\$ 178,003,573	\$ 171,264,058	3.94%	\$ 164,242,450	4.28%

## Financial Analysis

**Total Operating Revenues** - The Authority's operating revenues for the year ended June 30, 2018 was \$34,102,506 which was an increase of 7.72% as compared to fiscal year ended June 30, 2017. The operating revenues at June 30, 2017 was \$31,657,786 which was a decrease of 2.81% as compared to the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016. Operating revenues are primarily derived from student loan interest income from FFELP, RISLA fixed rate, and refinanced loans. These revenues increased by 7.0% for the year ended June 30, 2018.

**Total Operating Expenses** - The Authority's operating expenses for the year ended June 30, 2018 was \$27,362,991 which was an increase of 11.07% as compared to fiscal year ended June 30, 2017. The operating expenses at June 30, 2017 was \$24,636,178 which was an increase of 5.08% as compared to the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016. The overall increase was due to increases in interest expense and the provision for loan losses. Interest expense for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018 increased by \$1,758,135 or 12.78% as compared to June 30, 2017. The provision for loan losses for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018 increased by \$296,225 or 14.05% as compared to June 30, 2017 and was mainly the result of increased loan volume for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018.

**Operating Income** - The Authority's changes in net position for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2018 and 2017 was \$6,739,515 and \$7,021,608, respectively.

## **Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position**

	2018	2017	Percentage Change	2016	Percentage Change
Loan interest income	\$ 37,034,746	\$ 38,110,371	-2.82%	\$ 40,974,515	-6.99%
DOE special allowance payments	(5,647,059)	(8,773,389)	-35.63%	(11,791,716)	-25.60%
Other income	2,714,819	2,320,804	16.98%	3,390,596	-31.55%
Total income	34,102,506	31,657,786	7.72%	32,573,395	-2.81%
Interest expense	15,515,690	13,757,555	12.78%	12,637,553	8.86%
Arbitrage rebate	503,150	(37,436)	1444.03%	436,864	-108.57%
External loan servicing	2,063,278	2,076,286	-0.63%	1,830,297	13.44%
DOE loan fees	635,697	733,702	-13.36%	840,658	-12.72%
Provision for loan losses	2,405,246	2,109,021	14.05%	1,413,608	49.19%
Other operating expenses	6,239,930	5,997,050	4.05%	6,285,844	-4.59%
Total expenses	27,362,991	24,636,178	11.07%	23,444,824	5.08%
Operating Income	6,739,515	7,021,608		9,128,571	
Nonoperating Revenues	-	-		119,500	
Change in net position	6,739,515	7,021,608		9,248,071	
Net position, beginning of year	171,264,058	164,242,450		154,994,379	
Total net position, end of year	\$ 178,003,573	\$ 171,264,058	3.94%	\$ 164,242,450	4.28%

## **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.

## **Request for Information**

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, 2018 AND 2017

	2018	2017
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash, cash equivalents and investments:		
Unrestricted:		
Cash	\$ 1,076,102	\$ 411,297
Cash equivalents	5,009,772	145,086
Restricted:		
Cash	1,841,534	2,068,251
Cash equivalents	106,439,992	101,324,379
Investments	9,578,198	13,115,056
Student loans receivable	52,552,116	55,758,577
Accrued interest receivable:		
Student loans	21,604,294	19,029,184
Investments	77,847	66,564
Other receivables	50,763	97,033
Prepaid expenses	246,727	250,238
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>198,477,345</b>	<b>192,265,615</b>
<b>Noncurrent Assets</b>		
Student loans receivable - net	494,539,770	514,114,061
<b>Capital Assets</b>		
Capital assets, less accumulated depreciation of \$422,878 and \$713,625, respectively	227,386	289,242
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>693,244,501</b>	<b>706,668,918</b>

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

**RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY**

**STATEMENTS OF NET POSITION (CONTINUED)**

**JUNE 30, 2018 AND 2017**

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Bonds payable, current portion	15,900,000	17,565,000
Note payable, current	4,887,278	3,002,663
Due to U.S. Department of Education	1,102,528	1,843,868
Accrued interest payable	1,490,460	1,363,390
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	761,351	941,762
Grants payable	<u>210,880</u>	<u>276,858</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>24,352,497</u>	<u>24,993,541</u>
<b>Noncurrent Liabilities</b>		
Bonds payable, net of current portion and bond premium (discount) of \$6,133,487 and \$4,675,848, respectively	468,665,487	493,679,848
Note payable, noncurrent	16,369,935	10,013,182
Accrued arbitrage rebate	<u>2,977,950</u>	<u>2,528,549</u>
<b>Total Noncurrent Liabilities</b>	<u>488,013,372</u>	<u>506,221,579</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>512,365,869</u>	<u>531,215,120</u>
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>		
Unavailable revenue - loan origination fees	<u>2,875,059</u>	<u>4,189,740</u>
<b>Total Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>	<u>2,875,059</u>	<u>4,189,740</u>
<b>Net Position</b>		
Net investment in capital assets	227,386	289,242
Restricted for debt service	112,580,954	116,130,540
Unrestricted	<u>65,195,233</u>	<u>54,844,276</u>
<b>Total Net Position</b>	<u>\$ 178,003,573</u>	<u>\$ 171,264,058</u>

*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, 2018 AND 2017

	2018	2017
<b>Operating Revenues</b>		
Interest income:		
Student loans	\$ 37,034,746	\$ 38,110,371
U.S. Department of Education Special Allowance Payments	(5,647,059)	(8,773,389)
Investments, net	874,646	326,282
Fee income	1,840,173	1,994,522
<b>Total Operating Revenues</b>	<u>34,102,506</u>	<u>31,657,786</u>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
Interest	15,515,690	13,757,555
Provision for loan losses	2,405,246	2,109,021
Provision (credit) for arbitrage rebate	503,150	(37,436)
U.S. Department of Education loan fees - consolidation rebate	635,697	733,702
Loan servicing and acquisition costs	2,063,278	2,076,286
Salaries	2,382,546	2,376,628
Administration	761,768	734,963
Employee benefits	692,239	688,299
College Planning Center expenses	844,173	781,768
Legal and accounting	217,849	262,330
Miscellaneous bond expenses	192,893	211,964
Flood insurance costs	813,978	602,176
Payroll taxes	175,231	176,347
Depreciation	109,253	116,742
Scholarships	50,000	55,833
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<u>27,362,991</u>	<u>24,636,178</u>
<b>Changes in Net Position</b>	6,739,515	7,021,608
<b>Net Position - Beginning of the Year</b>	<u>171,264,058</u>	<u>164,242,450</u>
<b>Net Position - End of the Year</b>	<u>\$ 178,003,573</u>	<u>\$ 171,264,058</u>

*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, 2018 AND 2017

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
<b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>		
Cash received for:		
Student loan interest	\$ 26,802,826	\$ 26,033,694
Student loan principal	108,237,195	116,235,184
Fee income	1,840,173	1,938,689
Interest on investments	970,441	545,354
Cash paid for:		
Grants	(65,978)	(235,184)
Origination and purchase of student loans	(85,456,443)	(80,128,682)
Interest paid on bonds	(16,485,249)	(14,804,703)
Contractual services	(635,697)	(733,702)
Goods and services	(7,524,182)	(6,942,968)
Employee salaries	(2,558,491)	(2,429,969)
Employee benefits	(692,239)	(688,299)
<b>Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities</b>	<u>24,452,356</u>	<u>38,789,414</u>
<b>Cash Flows from Noncapital Financing Activities</b>		
Proceeds from note payable	14,000,000	8,200,000
Payment of note payable	(5,758,632)	(2,495,517)
Payment of bond maturities	(100,462,000)	(99,980,000)
Proceeds from sale of revenue bonds	<u>74,879,267</u>	<u>52,060,176</u>
<b>Net Cash Used in Noncapital Financing Activities</b>	<u>(17,341,365)</u>	<u>(42,215,341)</u>
<b>Cash Flows from Capital and Related Financing Activities</b>		
Purchase of capital assets	<u>(47,397)</u>	<u>(70,512)</u>
<b>Net Cash Used in Capital and Related Financing Activities</b>	<u>(47,397)</u>	<u>(70,512)</u>
<b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b>		
Purchases of investment securities	—	(1,204,634)
Sales of investment securities	<u>3,374,843</u>	<u>1,447,156</u>
<b>Net Cash Provided By Investing Activities</b>	<u>3,374,843</u>	<u>242,522</u>
<b>Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	10,418,437	(3,253,917)
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents - Beginning of Year</b>	<u>103,948,963</u>	<u>107,202,880</u>
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents - End of Year</b>	<u>\$ 114,367,400</u>	<u>\$ 103,948,963</u>

*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, 2018 AND 2017**

	2018	2017
<b>Reconciliation of Operating Income to Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities</b>		
Operating income	\$ 6,739,515	\$ 7,021,608
Adjustments to reconcile operating income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation of capital assets	109,253	116,742
Amortization - bond premiums and discounts	(1,096,628)	(1,169,482)
Increase in allowance for loan losses	531,462	1,037,463
Unrealized losses on investments	158,373	183,033
Realized losses on investments	3,642	1,577
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
Decrease in loans receivable	22,249,290	35,069,039
Decrease (increase) in other receivables	46,270	(57,639)
(Increase) in accrued interest receivable - loans	(3,316,450)	(1,822,982)
(Increase) in accrued interest receivable - investments	(11,283)	(8,646)
Decrease in prepaid expenses	3,511	51,271
Increase in bond accrued interest	127,070	122,333
(Decrease) in grants payable	(65,978)	(235,184)
(Decrease) in deferred inflows of resources	(1,314,681)	(1,422,667)
(Decrease) increase in accounts payable and accrued expenses	268,990	(97,052)
<b>Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities</b>	<b>\$ 24,432,356</b>	<b>\$ 38,789,414</b>
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents as reported in the financial statements consist of:</b>		
Unrestricted:		
Cash	\$ 1,076,102	\$ 411,297
Cash Equivalents	5,009,772	145,036
Restricted:		
Cash	1,841,534	2,068,251
Cash Equivalents	106,439,992	101,324,379
<b>Total Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>\$ 114,367,400</b>	<b>\$ 103,948,963</b>

*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, 2018 AND 2017**

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**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 and other debt. It has the power to issue negotiable notes and bonds to achieve its corporate purpose. The bonds and other debt, 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.

**RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2018 AND 2017**

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**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 and fee income. The Authority's operating expenses are related to student loan origination and servicing activities and general administration. 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 2018 and 2017 totaled \$109,253 and \$116,742, 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.

The Authority reviews long-lived assets for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of such assets may not be recoverable. At June 30, 2018, there were no impairment losses recognized for long-lived assets.

**RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2018 AND 2017**

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

***STUDENT LOANS***

The Authority originates and holds non-federal education student loans that are not guaranteed under the Federal Higher Education Act. These loans are funded utilizing credit criteria reviewed by the rating agencies and primarily financed by bonds issued by the authority and authorized under a resolution approved by the Board. The Authority has an additional loan 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).

Student loans are carried at their uncollected principal balances and are reduced by an allowance for loan losses of \$51,950,500 and \$51,419,038 at June 30, 2018 and 2017, 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 United States Department of Education.

***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.

**RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2018 AND 2017**

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

***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.

***INVESTMENTS***

Investments are carried at fair value in accordance with GASB Statement 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.

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

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2018 AND 2017**

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**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 30th 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 reduction and loan forgiveness programs.

**RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2018 AND 2017**

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**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, 2018, 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, 2018 and 2017, 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 \$2,875,059 at June 30, 2018 and \$4,189,740 at June 30, 2017.

***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.

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 Trust 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 Trust 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.

**RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2018 AND 2017**

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

***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 2017 financial statement amounts have been reclassified to conform to the 2018 presentation. There is no change in the reported change in net position.

**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,	
	2018	2017
<b>Cash Deposits</b>		
Carrying amount of cash deposits:		
Unrestricted	\$ 1,076,102	\$ 411,297
Restricted	<u>1,841,534</u>	<u>2,068,251</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u>\$ 2,917,636</u>	<u>\$ 2,479,548</u>
<b>Bank Balances</b>		
Covered by Federal depository insurance	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000
Collateralized by financial institution	<u>3,349,782</u>	<u>2,047,344</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u>\$ 3,849,782</u>	<u>\$ 2,547,344</u>

**RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2018 AND 2017**

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

***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.

	June 30,	
	2018	2017
	<u>Fair Value</u>	<u>Fair Value</u>
<b>Cash equivalents and investments unrestricted:</b>		
<b>Cash equivalents (Unrestricted):</b>		
Government Agency Bonds and Security Funds and Commercial Paper	\$ 5,009,772	\$ 145,036
<b>Total Cash Equivalents</b>	<u>5,009,772</u>	<u>145,036</u>
<b>Total Unrestricted</b>	<u>5,009,772</u>	<u>145,036</u>
<b>Cash Equivalents and Investments (Restricted):</b>		
<b>Cash Equivalents:</b>		
Money Market Funds and Commercial Paper	106,439,992	101,324,379
<b>Investments:</b>		
U.S. Treasury Notes	9,578,198	13,115,056
<b>Total Investments</b>	<u>9,578,198</u>	<u>13,115,056</u>
<b>Total Restricted</b>	<u>116,018,190</u>	<u>114,439,435</u>
<b>Total Cash Equivalents and Investments</b>	<u>\$ 121,027,962</u>	<u>\$ 114,584,471</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).

**RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2018 AND 2017**

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

***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 (Level 1), 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 prices 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).**

The asset's or liability's fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques maximize the use of relevant observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

There has been no change in the valuation methodology used in 2018.

There were no transfers between any levels during the year ended June 30, 2018.

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

**RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2018 AND 2017**

**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, 2018 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	February 28, 2021	\$ 1,433,604	\$ 1,433,604	\$ —	\$ —
U.S. Treasury Note	November 15, 2019	440,233	440,233	—	—
U.S. Treasury Note	May 15, 2019	276,848	276,848	—	—
U.S. Treasury Note	February 15, 2021	282,278	282,278	—	—
U.S. Treasury Note	September 30, 2020	301,946	301,946	—	—
U.S. Treasury Note	April 30, 2020	238,904	238,904	—	—
U.S. Treasury Note	April 30, 2020	373,421	373,421	—	—
U.S. Treasury Note	July 31, 2018	973,649	973,649	—	—
U.S. Treasury Note	April 30, 2020	39,005	39,005	—	—
U.S. Treasury Note	September 30, 2018	803,682	803,682	—	—
U.S. Treasury Note	May 31, 2019	1,143,239	1,143,239	—	—
U.S. Treasury Note	July 15, 2019	2,438,608	2,438,608	—	—
U.S. Treasury Note	November 30, 2019	734,797	734,797	—	—
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 9,378,198</b>	<b>\$ 9,378,198</b>	<b>\$ —</b>	<b>\$ —</b>

Financial assets and liabilities carried at fair value as of June 30, 2017 are classified in the following tables in one of the three categories described above:

U.S. Treasury Note	April 30, 2020	\$ 380,737	\$ 380,737	\$ —	\$ —
U.S. Treasury Note	September 15, 2017	434,933	434,933	—	—
U.S. Treasury Note	November 30, 2017	1,247,423	1,247,423	—	—
U.S. Treasury Note	December 31, 2017	248,302	248,302	—	—
U.S. Treasury Note	May 31, 2018	748,033	748,033	—	—
U.S. Treasury Note	July 31, 2018	976,839	976,839	—	—
U.S. Treasury Note	September 30, 2018	1,017,397	1,017,397	—	—
U.S. Treasury Note	May 15, 2019	387,101	387,101	—	—
U.S. Treasury Note	May 31, 2019	1,232,243	1,232,243	—	—
U.S. Treasury Note	July 15, 2019	2,487,673	2,487,673	—	—
U.S. Treasury Note	November 15, 2019	434,492	434,492	—	—
U.S. Treasury Note	November 30, 2019	742,088	742,088	—	—
U.S. Treasury Note	April 30, 2020	343,923	343,923	—	—
U.S. Treasury Note	April 30, 2020	242,308	242,308	—	—
U.S. Treasury Note	February 15, 2021	544,726	544,726	—	—
U.S. Treasury Note	February 28, 2021	1,624,618	1,624,618	—	—
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 13,115,036</b>	<b>\$13,115,036</b>	<b>\$ —</b>	<b>\$ —</b>

**RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2018 AND 2017**

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**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.

***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.

**NOTE 3 – LOANS RECEIVABLE**

Loans receivable represent the unpaid portion of Federal Family Education Loans Program (FFELP) originated or purchased by the Authority. These loans are guaranteed by the United States Department of Education under a guarantee agreement (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 non-federal education loans and refinanced student loans for qualified students and their families.

**RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2018 AND 2017**

**NOTE 3 – LOANS RECEIVABLE (CONTINUED)**

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 non-federal education 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.

Net loans receivable at June 30, 2018 and 2017 are as follows:

	2018	2017
FFELP loans receivable	\$ 188,137,361	\$ 226,641,726
Non-federal education loans receivable	410,905,025	394,649,950
Allowance for loan losses	<u>(51,950,500)</u>	<u>(51,419,038)</u>
Net loans receivable	<u>\$ 547,091,886</u>	<u>\$ 569,872,638</u>

Student loans receivable are presented as assets on the statement of net position as follows at June 30, 2018 and 2017:

	2018	2017
Current	\$ 52,552,116	\$ 55,758,577
Noncurrent	<u>494,539,770</u>	<u>514,114,061</u>
Total	<u>\$ 547,091,886</u>	<u>\$ 569,872,638</u>

**RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2018 AND 2017**

**NOTE 4 – CAPITAL ASSETS**

Capital assets activity during the years ended June 30, 2018 was as follows:

	Balance at July 1, 2017	Additions	Disposals	Balance at June 30, 2018
<b>Capital assets, being depreciated:</b>				
Furniture and fixtures	\$ 112,451	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 112,451
Equipment	830,521	47,397	—	877,919
Leasehold improvements	59,894	—	—	59,894
	<u>1,002,867</u>	<u>47,397</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>1,050,264</u>
<b>Accumulated Depreciation:</b>				
Furniture and fixtures	80,341	10,233	—	90,574
Equipment	587,765	92,040	—	679,805
Leasehold improvements	45,519	6,980	—	52,499
	<u>713,625</u>	<u>109,253</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>822,878</u>
<b>Total Accumulated Depreciation</b>	<u>713,625</u>	<u>109,253</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>822,878</u>
<b>Net Capital Assets</b>	<u>\$ 289,242</u>	<u>\$ (61,856)</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 227,386</u>

Capital assets activity during the years ended June 30, 2017 was as follows:

	Balance at July 1, 2016	Additions	Disposals	Balance at June 30, 2017
<b>Capital assets, being depreciated:</b>				
Furniture and fixtures	\$ 99,775	\$ 12,676	\$ —	\$ 112,451
Equipment	791,874	38,648	—	830,522
Leasehold improvements	40,706	19,188	—	59,894
	<u>932,355</u>	<u>70,512</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>1,002,867</u>
<b>Accumulated Depreciation:</b>				
Furniture and fixtures	71,069	9,272	—	80,341
Equipment	487,870	99,895	—	587,765
Leasehold improvements	37,944	7,575	—	45,519
	<u>596,883</u>	<u>116,742</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>713,625</u>
<b>Total Accumulated Depreciation</b>	<u>596,883</u>	<u>116,742</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>713,625</u>
<b>Net Capital Assets</b>	<u>\$ 335,472</u>	<u>\$ (46,230)</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 289,242</u>

**RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2018 AND 2017**

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**NOTE 5—OPERATING LEASES**

The Authority has a lease with 935 Jefferson, LLC (an unrelated third party), that commenced in 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, 2018 and 2017 was \$220,908 and \$216,008, respectively.

Lease payments for the following years are:

Year Ending <u>June 30,</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2019	\$ 225,808
2020	230,708
2021	215,600
Total	<u>\$ 672,116</u>

**NOTE 6—BONDS PAYABLE**

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, 2017 was 1.080%, 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. The 2006 Series 1 and Series 2 bonds were redeemed in FY 2018.

**RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2018 AND 2017**

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**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. The 2008 Series A and Series I bonds were redeemed in FY 2018.

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.

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.

**RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2018 AND 2017**

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**NOTE 6 – BONDS PAYABLE (CONTINUED)**

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, 2018 and 2017, interest on the 2012 Series-1 Notes was 2.88246% and 1.95050%, respectively. Proceeds of the notes were used to finance eligible student loans and refund certain obligations of the Authority.

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, 2018 and 2017, interest on the 2012-2 Notes was 2.63246% and 1.70050%, 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.

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. 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, 2018 and 2017, interest on the 2014-1 Notes were 2.68246% and 1.75050%, respectively. Proceeds of the notes were used to refund certain obligations of the Authority.

**RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2018 AND 2017**

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**NOTE 6 – BONDS PAYABLE (CONTINUED)**

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. 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. Proceeds of the bonds were used to finance the origination of new non-federal loans or to refinance existing loans.

On April 6, 2017, the Authority issued \$50,255,000 in 2017 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, 2019 through December 1, 2035. Proceeds of the bonds were used to finance the origination of new non-federal loans or to refinance existing loans.

On May 15, 2018, the Authority issued \$72,325,000 in 2018 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, 2020 through December 1, 2034. Proceeds of the bonds were used to finance the origination of new non-federal loans or to refinance existing loans.

In 2018 and 2017, the Authority redeemed bonds from various Student Loan Program Revenue Bonds. The Bonds were retired at par of the Bond's stated par value of 100% in 2018 and 2017, respectively. \$27,360,000 and \$35,570,000 of the outstanding Bonds were redeemed which resulted in no gain 2018 and 2017, respectively.

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 United States Department of Education, and proceeds of any sale or assignment by the Authority of any loans.

**RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2018 AND 2017**

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**NOTE 6 – BONDS PAYABLE (CONTINUED)**

On July 27, 2017, Chief Executive Officer of the United Kingdom's Financial Conduct Authority announced that it would phase out by the end of 2021 the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR). LIBOR is a set of benchmark or reference rates for unsecured money-center bank borrowings in the London inter-bank market. Rates for all terms and currencies are published daily and are broadly used as an index for financial transactions across the world. RISLA has issued bonds that are indexed off the LIBOR including RISLA's 2012-1, RISLA's 2012-2 and RISLA's 2014-1 bond issues. Government regulators and market participants are evaluating the potential impact of the elimination of LIBOR and discussing potential replacements for LIBOR. RISLA management will continue to monitor developments with LIBOR and believes that the phase-out will have no impact on RISLA's financial statements.

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 July 2009, March 2010, December 2010, March 2012, March 2013, April 2014, April 2015, May 2016, April 2017 and May 2018 Bond issues is 3% of principal bonds outstanding with a minimum requirement of \$3,066,850 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 required reserve for the June 2014 bond issue is \$250,000.

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 2018 and 2017.

**RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2018 AND 2017****NOTE 6 – BONDS PAYABLE (CONTINUED)**

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

Bond Issue	2018	2017
July 2006		
Series 1	\$ —	\$ 700,000
Series 2	—	5,600,000
May 2008		
Senior Series A	—	18,605,000
Subordinated Series 1	—	4,000,000
July 2009		
Senior Series A	11,160,000	13,000,000
March 2010		
Senior Series A	7,745,000	9,245,000
December 2010		
Senior Series B	9,125,000	11,485,000
March 2012		
Senior Series A	8,250,000	10,430,000
August 2012		
Series 2012-1	38,159,000	47,431,000
November 2012		
Series 2012-2	93,215,000	114,369,000
March 2013		
Senior Series A	31,275,000	40,075,000
April 2014		
Senior Series A	27,985,000	31,650,000
June 2014		
Series 2014-1	45,573,000	54,759,000

**RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2018 AND 2017**

**NOTE 6 – BONDS PAYABLE (CONTINUED)**

April 2015 Series 2015-A	36,715,000	39,965,000
June 2016-A Series 2016-A	46,650,000	55,000,000
June 2017-A Series 2017-A	50,255,000	50,255,000
May 2018-A Series 2018 -A	<u>72,325,000</u>	<u>—</u>
Subtotal	478,432,000	506,569,000
Add: Premium	7,179,682	5,844,350
Less: Discount	1,046,195	1,168,502
Less: Current portion	<u>15,900,000</u>	<u>17,565,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$ 468,665,487</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 493,679,848</u></b>

The following schedule reflects the changes in bonds payable:

Balance at June 30, 2016	\$ 556,294,000
Additions	50,255,000
Redemptions	<u>(99,980,000)</u>
Balance at June 30, 2017	506,569,000
Additions	72,325,000
Redemptions	<u>(100,462,000)</u>
Balance at June 30, 2018	<b><u>\$ 478,432,000</u></b>

**RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2018 AND 2017**

**NOTE 6 – BONDS PAYABLE (CONTINUED)**

Presented below is a summary of debt service requirements to maturity for fiscal years ending June 30:

Year	Principal	Interest	Total
2019	\$ 15,900,000	\$ 16,811,338	\$ 32,711,338
2020	20,725,000	16,037,671	36,762,671
2021	23,565,000	15,011,073	38,576,073
2022	24,850,000	13,899,607	38,749,607
2023	24,705,000	12,802,772	37,507,772
2024	24,500,000	11,691,149	36,191,149
2025	22,175,000	10,685,794	32,860,794
2026	23,840,000	9,740,444	33,580,444
2027	16,125,000	8,994,408	25,119,408
2028	14,575,000	8,421,494	22,996,494
2029	54,348,000	7,993,835	62,341,835
2030	4,815,000	6,529,974	11,344,974
2031	7,820,000	6,242,963	14,062,963
2032	54,384,000	4,720,553	59,104,553
2033	800,000	4,354,539	5,154,539
2034	3,650,000	4,252,383	7,902,383
2035	48,440,000	3,176,306	51,616,306
2036	—	2,453,848	2,453,848
2037	<u>93,215,000</u>	<u>423,541</u>	<u>93,638,541</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$ 478,432,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 164,243,692</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 642,675,692</u></b>

**NOTE 7 – NOTES PAYABLE AND LINE OF CREDIT**

On December 30, 2014, the Authority entered into a line of credit agreement with a bank to borrow up to \$10,000,000. The Line 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 beginning 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 as certain additional pledged assets.

**RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2018 AND 2017**

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

On December 29, 2015, the Authority entered into a line of credit agreement with a bank to borrow up to \$10,000,000. The Line expired on December 29, 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 beginning on July 25, 2016, 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 as certain additional pledged assets.

On June 2, 2017, the Authority entered into a line of credit agreement with a bank to borrow up to \$20,000,000. The Line originally expired on June 2, 2018 and was extended to June 2, 2019, the interest rate is Federal Home Loan Bank Classic Advance Rate for the term of the financing plus 1.25%. Per the terms of the Line Agreement, the Authority has the option to convert the Line into three separate term note classes. The Line is collateralized by certain loans including all of those originated by the Authority from advances under the Line as well as 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> of every month, beginning on January 22, 2016.

During fiscal year 2017, the Authority drew an additional \$8,200,000 on the line which was converted to three separate term notes, as described below.

On July 26, 2016, the Authority converted the amount outstanding under The Line of \$3,450,000 into a term note (the July 2016 Note). The July 2016 Note matures on August 25, 2023 and has an interest rate of 2.65%. Principal payments of \$40,588 plus interest are due on the 25<sup>th</sup> of every month, beginning on August 25, 2016.

**RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2018 AND 2017**

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

On December 21, 2016, the Authority converted the amount outstanding under The Line of \$2,450,000 into a term note (the December 2016 Note). The December 2016 Note matures on January 21, 2024 and has an interest rate of 3.83%. Principal payments of \$28,824 plus interest are due on the 21st of every month, beginning on January 21, 2017.

On December 21, 2016, the Authority converted the amount outstanding under The Line of \$2,300,000 into a term note (the December 2016 Note). The December 2016 Note matures on November 21, 2020 and has an interest rate of 3.30%. Principal payments of \$48,936 plus interest are due on the 21st of every month, beginning on January 21, 2017.

During fiscal year 2018, the Authority drew an additional \$14,000,000 on the line which was converted to three separate term notes, as described below.

On July 19, 2017, the Authority converted the amount outstanding under The Line of \$5,000,000 into a term note (the July 2017 Note). The July 2017 Note matures on July 19, 2027 and has an interest rate of 4.14%. Principal payments of \$41,667 plus interest are due on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of every month, beginning on August 2, 2017.

On October 6, 2017, the Authority converted the amount outstanding under The Line of \$4,000,000 into a term note (the October 2017 Note). The October 2017 Note matures on April 6, 2024 and has an interest rate of 3.67%. Principal payments of \$51,282 plus interest are due on the 6<sup>th</sup> of every month, beginning on November 6, 2017.

On February 21, 2018, the Authority converted the amount outstanding under The Line of \$5,000,000 into a term note (the February 2018 Note). The February 2018 Note matures on August 21, 2024 and has an interest rate of 4.54%. Principal payments of \$64,103 plus interest are due on the 21<sup>st</sup> of every month, beginning on March 21, 2018.

As of June 30, 2018, the total principal balance outstanding under the February 2015 Note, the September 2015 Note, the December 2015 Note, the July 2016, the December 2016 Note, the July 2017 Note, the October 2017 Note, and the February 2018 Note was collectively \$21,257,213. In addition, the Authority can also borrow up to an additional \$6,000,000 against The Line as of June 30, 2018.

**RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2018 AND 2017**

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

The following schedule reflects the changes in notes payable:

Balance at June 30, 2016	\$	7,311,362
Additions		8,200,000
Redemptions		(2,495,517)
Balance at June 30, 2017		13,015,845
Additions		14,000,000
Redemptions		(5,758,632)
Balance at June 30, 2018	\$	<u>21,257,213</u>

As part of the above financings, the Authority was required to meet certain financial covenants. As of June 30, 2018, the Authority was in compliance with these covenants.

Debt service requirements for bonds and notes payable at June 30, 2018 were as follows:

<u>Bonds</u>				<u>Term Notes</u>				<u>Total Long Term Debt</u>			
<u>Year</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
2019	\$ 15,000,000	\$ 16,011,330	\$ 31,011,330	2019	\$ 4,007,230	\$ 707,636	\$ 4,714,866	2019	\$ 19,792,770	\$ 17,519,664	\$ 37,312,434
2020	20,725,000	16,037,671	36,762,671	2020	4,240,900	546,344	4,787,244	2020	24,973,900	16,584,065	41,557,965
2021	25,500,000	15,011,053	40,511,053	2021	3,770,200	300,966	4,071,166	2021	27,303,200	15,410,069	42,713,269
2022-2026	170,070,000	30,015,266	200,085,266	2022-2026	1,342,000	546,300	1,888,300	2022-2026	170,412,000	30,556,354	200,968,354
2027-2031	97,000,000	30,102,654	127,102,654	2027-2031	-	-	-	2027-2031	97,000,000	30,102,654	127,102,654
2032-2036	107,274,000	0,937,629	108,211,629	2032-2036	-	-	-	2032-2036	107,274,000	0,937,629	108,211,629
2037-2041	95,225,000	0,541	95,670,541	2037-2041	-	-	-	2037-2041	95,225,000	0,541	95,670,541
	<u>\$ 691,822,000</u>	<u>\$ 164,263,602</u>	<u>\$ 856,085,602</u>		<u>\$ 13,259,233</u>	<u>\$ 2,100,794</u>	<u>\$ 15,359,997</u>		<u>\$ 691,822,000</u>	<u>\$ 166,364,606</u>	<u>\$ 858,186,606</u>

**NOTE 8 – ACCRUED ARBITRAGE REBATE**

Accrued arbitrage rebate at June 30, 2018 and 2017 consisted of the following:

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Noncurrent portion	\$ 2,977,950	\$ 2,528,549
Total Accrued Arbitrage Rebate	<u>\$ 2,977,950</u>	<u>\$ 2,528,549</u>

**RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2018 AND 2017**

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**NOTE 8 – ACCRUED ARBITRAGE REBATE (CONTINUED)**

The following schedule reflects the changes in accrued arbitrage rebate:

Balance at June 30, 2016	\$ 2,611,736
Increase in earnings above permitted yield	134,881
Decrease in earnings below permitted yield	<u>(218,068)</u>
Balance at June 30, 2017	2,528,549
Increase in earnings above permitted yield	449,401
Decrease in earnings below permitted yield	<u>—</u>
Balance at June 30, 2018	<u>\$ 2,977,950</u>

**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 Supplemental 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 until all loans are paid in full or terminated by either party.

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.

**RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2018 AND 2017**

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**NOTE 9 – LOAN SERVICING AGREEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

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. During fiscal year 2018 Great Lakes was acquired by loan service provider Nelnet.

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. These fees were fully amortized as of June 30, 2016.

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.

The Authority received \$212,316 and \$230,574 in monthly revenue from Aspire and MOHELA to service the Federal Student Loans for the years ended June 30, 2018 and 2017, respectively, and this revenue is recorded as “fee income” in the accompanying statements of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position.

**RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2018 AND 2017**

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**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 (TIAA-CREF). 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 2018 and 2017 amounted to \$272,422 and \$264,624, respectively. Employee contributions for 2018 and 2017 amounted to \$134,499 and \$124,112, 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.

On December 6, 2017, the governing Board for the OPC, The Council on Post-Secondary Education voted to transfer their Federal Family Education Loan Portfolio to the United States Department of Education. The action by the council effectively terminated the role of the OPC as a guarantor under the FFLEP program. On July 1, 2018, all FFLEP loans were transferred to Educational Credit Management Corporation (ECMC) as guarantor for the FFLEP portfolio.

**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, 2018 and 2017.

**RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2018 AND 2017**

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**NOTE 13 – SUBSEQUENT EVENT**

The Authority has evaluated subsequent events through September 28, 2018, the date these financial statements were authorized for issuance.

On July 17, 2018, the Authority issued \$35,000,000 in 2018 Federally Taxable Senior Series 1 Student Loan Program Revenue Bonds. The bonds are fixed rate with interest rates between 3.158% and 4.283% and maturities ranging from December 1, 2019 through December 1, 2034. The proceeds will be used to fund refinance loans. The loan portfolio was presented as restricted net position as of June 30, 2018.

In addition, see Note 11 for details on the transfer of the FFELP portfolio in July 2018.

**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, 2018, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated September 28, 2018.

***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.

#### *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 28, 2018



# RISLA

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