

Rhode Island Student Loan Authority



YOUR GATEWAY TO SUCCESS

ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year Ended
June 30, 2017
And Dated
December 31, 2017



RISLA
RHODE ISLAND STUDENT
LOAN AUTHORITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Charles P. Kelley, *Executive Director*

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INTRODUCTION

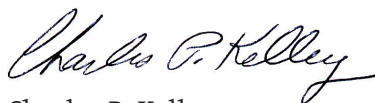
We are pleased to present the 2017 Annual Report for the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority (RISLA). RISLA has operated for the benefit of students and families since 1981. In that time, we have fulfilled our mission by offering services and programs to help make dreams of higher education a reality. This includes low cost state-based, education loans, reward programs that provide loan forgiveness or zero interest on student loans, and resources to ensure students and parents are informed about the cost of borrowing through financial literacy outreach.

The resources provided by RISLA include free admissions and financial aid assistance through the College Planning Center of Rhode Island (CPCRI), a free internship finder through bRidge.jobs, a refinancing program for those looking to save on existing student loans, and a vibrant online presence across social media platforms to reach as many students and parents as possible. Our team is proud to fulfill such an important mission without any funding or appropriation from the State of Rhode Island.

Our work is most notable in the affordable education financing options we offer Rhode Islanders. Our education loans are a lifeline for thousands who seek the security of affordable and predictable student loans. In 2017, we provided multiple options for financing an education, including student and parent loans with no origination fees and additional discounted rates for automatic payments. The RISLA Student Loan is our signature fixed rate loan for students and parents looking for assistance paying for college with rates this year as low as 4.49% (with a discount for auto payments). The RISLA Parent Loan offered a fixed interest rate as low as 5.49% (with a discount for auto payments), which compares favorably to the federal government's 7% PLUS loan, which also charges an upfront origination fee of 4.27%. RISLA was the first non-profit in the country to offer education loan refinancing which has saved the average borrower \$5,500 with fixed rates as low as 3.49% (with a discount for auto payments). Of the hundreds of borrowers over the last four years who have benefited from RISLA's refinancing program, there has not been a single default.

As the leading statewide resource dedicated to student success, our work is not limited solely to financing solutions. We are committed to helping students with an array of free services like admission and financial aid assistance through the CPCRI, where over 18,000 students and families this year received counseling from our team of experts. We also provide a variety of outreach events in the community including financial aid awareness nights at local high schools and a major college fair at McCoy Stadium in the fall.

Our bRidge.jobs initiative matches area businesses with student interns, with over 7,000 students utilizing the program to date. This report highlights several initiatives and services that RISLA was proud to offer in 2017. These efforts are a direct result of the hard work and commitment of the employees at RISLA and the CPCRI. They are also made possible through the leadership and direction of our volunteer board of directors, including Chairman Robert Delaney, Vice Chair Christine Jenkins, Secretary/Treasurer Robert Theroux, Sandra Mack, Esq., Daniel Egan, and General Treasurer Seth Magaziner.



Charles P. Kelley
Executive Director



Noel Simpson
Deputy Director

HIGHLIGHTS 2017

In 2017 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 Provided Over \$50 Million in Safe, Fixed-Rate Loans for the 2017/18 Academic Year

This program, which is in its 25th year, is available to Rhode Island residents and students attending college in Rhode Island. The rate students received depended on the repayment option. RISLA's immediate repayment option features a 10-year term and represents the lowest cost option with a fixed rate as low as 4.49% (with a discount for auto payments) and a Parent Only Loan (the student is not an obligor on the loan) featuring a 10-year term at a fixed rate as low as 5.49% (with 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 6.49% (with a discount for auto payments). These rates made Rhode Island's education loan offerings some of the best in the country and are significantly less than the 7%, plus 4.27% origination fee, offered under the federal PLUS loan.

The agency also offers a student loan refinancing option with a fixed interest rate as low as 3.49% (with a discount for auto payments). 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 by reducing interest rates, monthly payments or total debt service and is available to all qualified education loan borrowers.

Loan Reward Programs Continue to Assist Rhode Island Students

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 in the state. The Nursing Rewards program provides graduates who provide direct patient care in Rhode Island zero percent interest on loans for up to four years.

RISLA is also proud to collaborate with leading organizations in the state to offer a Primary Care Provider Loan Repayment program for health professionals including physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants. The program is funded by Blue Cross & Blue Shield of RI, United Healthcare, the RI Medical Society, and the RI Foundation, and administered by RISLA. Loan repayment awards are provided to primary health care providers in exchange for service commitments to those newly recruited to the state. Awards go directly to pay educational loans, up to \$80,000, for qualifying recipients.

Income Based Repayment Plan

RISLA is the only education lender in the country, for-profit or non-profit, to offer an income based repayment plan as a safety net for its borrowers who have financial or medical difficulties.

Loan Forgiveness for Death or Disability of the Student Borrower

RISLA, for many years, has forgiven loans if the student (or graduate) borrower passes away or is permanently disabled under terms that mirror the US Department of Education guidelines.

Internship Rewards Program a Big Success

Along with RISLA's loan reward programs for nurses, the organization is proud of its newest 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 on a qualifying RISLA loan 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. Over 100 students have taken advantage of the \$2,000 loan forgiveness since the program began.

bRidge jobs Continues to Match Students with Local Internships

2017 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 RI, the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce, and the RI Partnership Project.

Internship Work Highlighted in Providence Journal

Daniel Egan, a RISLA Board member and President of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Rhode Island along with RISLA Executive Director Charles Kelley authored an op-ed on the importance of internships for the state's economy. Mr. Kelley and Mr. Egan discussed their own experience as interns along with the value placed on having interns at their respective organizations. They pointed to the collaborative efforts of RISLA and its bRidge.Jobs initiative in concert with the efforts of the Governor's Workforce Board to utilize internships as a way to retain talented workers in the state.

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. RISLA conducted 58 seminars across the state last year. 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 also offers a comprehensive comparison of student loan options, including a review of RISLA's education loans versus federal education loans. RISLA and its board remain committed to the principle of borrowing responsibly and properly managing finances as an important key to student success.

College Planning Center Hosts Seventh Annual PawSox College Fair

On September 19th, 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 that was funded by the registration fees paid by the colleges that had booths at the fair.

Sherlock Scholarship Awards

For the fourteenth consecutive year, RISLA was proud to award 25 scholarships to deserving Rhode Islanders in the name of the late state representative and former RISLA board member, Paul V. Sherlock. The \$50,000 in scholarships were awarded to qualified students from across Rhode Island at a May 30th ceremony in the State House. The keynote speaker at the event was General Treasurer Seth Magaziner. RISLA Executive Director Charles Kelley and RISLA CFO Noel Simpson also participated as speakers at the event.

Expanded Hours and Outreach for Families at the College Planning Center

In 2017, the CPCRI expanded its hours to better serve the over 18,000 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 Scholarship Service Profile. As always, the CPC's services are free of charge. During the year, the CPCRI staffed a West Bay office at the Warwick Mall, an East Bay office on Metacom Avenue in Bristol, and a Northern Rhode Island office at the Boys & Girls Club of Cumberland. Expanded hours during 2017 included nights and weekend sessions, complemented by the CPCRI's interactive website: www.RISLA.com/college-planning-center.

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.

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

U.S. Senator Jack Reed held his 27th annual College Aid Workshop at Western Hills Middle School in Cranston on November 20th. RISLA Deputy Director Noel Simpson and College Planning Center of RI Director Stacy Crooks joined Sen. Reed in the presentation to students and families. RISLA has

enjoyed a longstanding tradition of working with Senator Reed on his college aid workshops.

Media Outreach on Planning for College

In August, RISLA's Deputy Director Noel Simpson appeared on WPRI Channel 12 to discuss issues related to paying for college, completion of financial aid forms, and loan options for students and parents. He stressed the importance of adhering to deadlines and seeking out opportunities through organizations like RISLA and the CPCRI.

LOOKING AHEAD

For over 36 years RISLA has been a valuable resource to Rhode Islanders. We are committed to student success, and our track record of helping students and parents achieve this goal is unmatched. We embrace the mission that has guided us for so long and look forward to providing low cost educational financing options while also serving as a catalyst for ensuring that students succeed in all they do.

At RISLA, we believe our role in helping students is a key part in Rhode Island's overall economic development strategy. That is why we partner with important organizations like the Governor's Workforce Board, the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Rhode Island, the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce, and other groups to promote the well-being of the state and its future. Our efforts to foster an improved climate for students seeking internships is a prime example of our commitment to the state. We believe that serving as a conduit to internship opportunities allows talented young people to enhance both their hard and soft skills and chances for gainful employment. It also helps to retain young workers in Rhode Island, many of whom receive job offers from their intern experience.

While helping students to advance their career prospects is important, we are also cognizant of the need to make higher education more affordable. RISLA volunteered to help students complete their FAFSA forms to qualify for Governor Raimondo's new Rhode Island Promise Scholarship program, which offers free tuition to Rhode Island students at CCRI. We also believe it is our firm responsibility to fully inform students and parents about the cost of higher education before they borrow. We believe the best decisions on financing a college education can only be made by informed consumers. So, we will continue to offer financial literacy outreach and one-on-one college planning services to ensure that students are making responsible decisions about their financial futures.

The new year also brings some concern regarding changes in Washington. We will continue to monitor and work with our colleagues throughout the country on issues like bond financing and the importance of state agencies in providing education loans and servicing federal student loans. As a responsible non-profit organization, we are distinctly different from large, for-profit institutions that do not share a mission like RISLA's commitment to students. Any changes at the federal level should support the efforts being done by providers like RISLA. We will work with our partners and elected officials in Washington to ensure our good work will continue.

As we look to 2018, we are proud of our track record in helping tens of thousands of students realize their dreams of higher education. Through the guidance and direction of our board of directors and our commitment to working with leaders throughout the state, we look forward to continuing to serve as a catalyst for a brighter future for Rhode Island and its residents for many years to come.

SUMMARY OF RISLA PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED

Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017

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 chooses.

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

- On May 4, 2017, RISLA issued Tax Exempt Fixed Rate Student Loan Program Revenue Bonds in the amount of \$50,255,000. The purpose of this bond issue was to fund fixed rate student loans originated in FY 2018.
- RISLA also offers loan programs for the parents of college students and a refinancing loan program that is designed to help student loan repayment borrowers reduce their total debt service, loan interest rate and possibly their monthly payment.

RISLA Education Loans

- For the 2017/18 academic year, RISLA offers a 10-year RISLA Student Loan with a fixed rate as low as 4.49%, after a discount of .25% for auto payments, for borrowers who choose to start repaying while the student is in school. Deferred repayment options are also available, which delays repayment until six months after the student leaves school. A co-signer release option is available for qualifying borrowers after two years of repayment and the meeting of specified credit criteria.
- For the 2017/18 academic year, RISLA offers a 10-year college loan for parents with a fixed rate of 5.49%, 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 if they refinance their federal 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 18,000 parents and students through in-person counseling and seminars to assist with their college planning needs in FY 2017.
- The CPCRI presented a half-day seminar for Rhode Island's high school counselors that provided admissions and financial aid updates to assist the school counselors in their efforts to serve their college-bound students.
- The CPCRI website located at www.RISLA.com contains many financial aid and admissions resources including a scholarship search service containing many locally based scholarships.

Paul Sherlock Scholarship Fund

- \$50,000 need based annual scholarship fund named after former college professor, leader in special education, RISLA board member, and legislator.
- RISLA has funded 350 need based scholarships totaling \$700,000 from FY 2004 through FY 2017.

Nursing Rewards Programs

- RISLA offers a zero interest loan for the first four years of repayment through the Nursing Reward Program. Eligible applicants must have a RISLA Fixed Rate Loan issued between July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2018, and work in a licensed Rhode Island facility providing direct patient care.
- One hundred twenty-two students have entered repayment under the Rewards programs and approximately another 150 students are potentially eligible when they enter repayment. A qualifying nurse with a \$16,000 loan balance can benefit from a 23% reduction in their monthly payment for up to four years and potentially save over \$1,800 in interest payments with RISLA's rewards programs.

Customer Service

- For many years RISLA has been known for its superior customer service, as the number of testimonials on the RISLA web site prove. A local presence is important for schools and students and that factor distinguishes RISLA from its out-of-state competition.
- RISLA originates and services all of its non-federal loans in Warwick, RI. Our local staff are available to meet with students and their families to explain the various loan programs, assist in completion of loan applications, avoid default and help 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.

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, 2017 can be found on the Office of Secretary of State's website at the following address: http://sos.ri.gov/openmeetings/?page=view_entity&id=529 or through a link on RISLA's website: <https://www.risla.com/accountability-transparency>.

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

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

OPERATING STATEMENT

Summary of Board of Directors Meetings

Year Ending June 30, 2017

Board Meeting Date: September 1, 2016

Items discussed and voted:

1. Voted to approve the Warwick Mall lease for an additional three years
2. Discussed legislature enabling RISLA to purchase its own bonds

Board Meeting Date: September 23, 2016

Items discussed and voted:

1. Voted to approve the 2016 audited Financial Report
2. Voted to adopt RISLA's Bond Purchase policy
3. Discussed Bridge.jobs roll out of a mobile app for students

Board Meeting Date: October 21, 2016

Items discussed and voted:

1. Discussed and reviewed bids for bond cash flows and pricing services
2. Voted to appoint financial advisors
3. Voted to approve a firm for cyber security penetration testing
4. Voted to approve sponsorship/advertising for RI Jump Start Financial Literacy Capability Conference

Board Meeting Date: December 16, 2016

Items discussed and voted:

1. Discussed the implications of the earlier FAFSA application date on CPC staff
2. Voted to amend the budget to include software modifications
3. Voted to approve the bond issue authorizing resolution for the 2017-2018 school year funding

Board Meeting Date: January 27, 2017

Items discussed and voted:

1. Voted to approve up to \$20 million in fixed rate funding for RISLA's Refinancing Program
2. Voted to approve advertising at the Academic Decathlon and annual membership with AICURI
3. Voted to approve the bond issuance resolution, amending the previously approved resolution
4. Voted to approve the bond issuance cost budget

Board Meeting Date: March 17, 2017

Items discussed and voted:

1. Voted to accept RISLA's revised Identity Theft Protection Program
2. Discussed the Municipal Continuing Disclosure Cooperation Initiative

Board Meeting Date: April 28, 2017

Items discussed and voted:

1. Voted to approve the authorizing resolution to borrow \$20 million from Webster Bank for RISLA's Refinancing Loan Program
2. Voted to accept the audit subcommittee report which provided a review of the SOCI audit that was issued with a clean opinion

Board Meeting Date: June 28, 2017

Items discussed and voted:

1. Discussed the positive results of the recent compliance audit performed by the state of Connecticut's Consumer Credit Division in their Department of Bank Regulation
2. Voted to approve the FYE 2018 budget

STAFF SUPPORTED BY RISLA FUNDS AND DEBT AND ARBITRAGE REBATE

Staff Supported by RISLA Funds

RISLA receives no state appropriation and is entirely funded through revenues generated from its student loan programs and bond issues which are not in any way guaranteed by the state. RISLA's authorizing statute (RIGL Chapter 16-62) grants the board of directors the authority to appoint an Executive Director to run the day-to-day operations of RISLA. As of November 2017, RISLA had 36 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 2017

The following 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, 2017. RISLA's complete audited financial statements, including the auditor's opinion letter and management discussion and analysis, is available on the web at www.RISLA.com or by calling the Authority at 401-468-1700.

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

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2017 AND 2016

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

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board Members
Rhode Island Student Loan Authority

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority, (a related organization of the State of Rhode Island), as of and for the years ended June 30, 2017 and 2016, 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, 2017, 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 October 13, 2017 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
October 13, 2017

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

JUNE 30, 2017

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, 2017. 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 2017, RISLA continued to offer its Rhode Island Fixed Rate Student Loan program. This offered student borrowers two options. Students attending college in Rhode Island and State residents attending an out of state school could choose a ten year immediate repayment option at a 3.99% fixed rate with automatic payment. Students could also choose a deferred repayment option at a fixed rate of 5.74% 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 2017 a ten year parent loan with a fixed interest rate of 4.74% 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 \$52 million in Rhode Island Fixed rate loans to borrowers in FY 2017.

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, 2017, RISLA refinanced approximately \$28 million of student loans for 606 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 an average of approximately \$7,300 in interest costs over the term of the loan. RISLA plans to expand the student loan refinancing program in FY 2018.

RISLA continues to promote the value and benefits of college internships in collaboration with the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Rhode Island, The Rhode Island Board of Education, and the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce. The goal of the partnership is to help match Rhode Island employers with talented students through the website www.bridge.jobs. The partnership and website has, as of June 30, 2017, cumulatively registered 7,244 students, 1,211 employers, and listed 1,625 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 2017, the staff at the CPC provided assistance to approximately 17,958 individuals. The College Planning Center currently operates three locations which are in Warwick, Bristol, and Cumberland. The CPC also provides a searchable data base of hard to find local scholarships. RISLA and the CPC work closely with the Spanish and Latino speaking population in Rhode Island with a goal of increasing college attendance and success among the Latino residents of the state.

RISLA administers a student loan forgiveness program that is funded by the Rhode Island Foundation. Under this 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 three professions, Primary Care Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, and Physicians Assistants. Funding for the primary care loan forgiveness program has been exhausted so the Authority is not accepting new applications. The programs require the applicant to be employed in the State of Rhode Island to be eligible. Qualified applicants receive annual awards that are sent directly to the holder of their student loan. To date, RISLA has received approximately \$2.4 million in funds for the programs and has assisted 59 professionals.

RISLA issued \$50,255,000 in new bonds in FY 2017, which will be used to fund RISLA's education loan programs in FY 2018.

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 \$226,641,726 at June 30, 2017.

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 25 years. RISLA originated approximately \$52 million in Rhode Island Fixed Rate student loans in the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017 and was able to secure financing to originate another \$50,255,000 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018.
- Bonds payable decreased from \$556,294,000 on June 30, 2016 to \$506,569,000 on June 30, 2017. This represents a decrease of \$49,725,000 or 8.94%. In FY 2017, RISLA issued \$50,255,000 in new fixed rate bonds. RISLA redeemed \$99,980,000 in bonds through redemptions of auction rate securities and other scheduled bond payments.
- RISLA services its private loan portfolio (principal balance of approximately \$395 million at June 30, 2017) utilizing RISLA employees. Servicing its portfolio of private loans has resulted in better portfolio management, a reduction of defaulted borrowers, and lower servicing costs.

OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

The financial statements provide both short-term and long-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 is a related organization of the State of Rhode Island and their financial statements are prepared in conformity with accounting principles accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) and also reported under Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) as applied to the government units on an accrual basis for enterprise accounting. 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 plus deferred outflows minus liabilities and deferred inflows – is one way to measure the Authority's financial health or position.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Net Position

For fiscal year ended June 30, 2017, the Authority's total assets exceeded the total liabilities and deferred inflows by \$171,264,058 for an increase of 4.28% as compared to June 30, 2016. At June 30, 2016 the total assets exceeded the total liabilities and deferred inflows by \$164,242,450 which was an increase of 5.97% as compared to June 30, 2015. A condensed summary of the Authority's net assets at June 30 is shown below.

Student loan receivables are the largest component of assets and decreased from \$663,730,346 on June 30, 2015 to \$605,979,140 on June 30, 2016, which represents a decrease of 8.70%. Student loan receivables amounted to \$569,872,638 on June 30, 2017, a decrease of 5.96%. 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, 2015 equaled \$98,927,763. On June 30, 2016, restricted cash and investments equaled \$118,146,012. On June 30, 2017, restricted cash and investments equaled \$116,507,686. Restricted cash and investment balances are primarily used to acquire student loans, retire bond and other bank debt, and pay semiannual interest payments.

Liabilities consist primarily of bond debt. On June 30, 2015 bond debt outstanding, net of unamortized bond premium and discount, amounted to \$611,526,676. On June 30, 2016 bond debt outstanding amounted to \$560,334,152. On June 30, 2017 bond debt outstanding amounted to \$511,244,848.

The Authority's Net Position for the year ended June 30, 2017 was \$171,264,058 which was an increase of 4.28% as compared to the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016. The Net Position at June 30, 2016 was \$164,242,450 which was an increase of 5.97% as compared to the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015. Unrestricted Net Position for the year ended June 30, 2017 was \$54,844,276 which was an increase of 2.60% as compared to Unrestricted Net Position for the year ended June 30, 2016. The increase was largely due to operations in the current year. Unrestricted Net Position for the year ended June 30, 2016 was \$53,452,046 as compared to \$8,085,450 at June 30, 2015. This increase in fiscal year 2016 was the result of redeeming the remaining bonds outstanding that were associated with the 1997 Trust. Once all of the bonds related to the 1997 trust were paid off, the assets remaining from the 1997 Trust were classified as unrestricted net assets and were essentially the principal balance of the private loans receivable that were still reported in RISLA's Statements of Net Position.

	2017	2016	Percentage Change	2015	Percentage Change
Other assets	\$706,379,676	\$745,142,691	-5.20%	\$786,225,411	-5.23%
Capital assets	289,242	335,472	-13.78%	135,010	148.48%
Total Assets	<u>706,668,918</u>	<u>745,478,163</u>	-5.21%	<u>786,360,421</u>	-5.20%
Current liabilities	24,993,541	20,973,544	19.17%	18,401,403	13.98%
Noncurrent liabilities	506,221,579	554,649,762	-8.73%	605,270,003	-8.36%
Total liabilities	<u>531,215,120</u>	<u>575,623,306</u>	-7.71%	<u>623,671,406</u>	-7.70%
Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>4,189,740</u>	<u>5,612,407</u>	-25.35%	<u>7,694,636</u>	-27.06%
Net Position					
Investment in capital assets, net of related debt	289,242	335,472	-13.78%	135,010	148.48%
Restricted for debt service	116,130,540	110,454,932	5.14%	146,773,919	-24.74%
Unrestricted	<u>54,844,276</u>	<u>53,452,046</u>	2.60%	<u>8,085,450</u>	561.09%
Total Net Position	<u>\$171,264,058</u>	<u>\$164,242,450</u>	4.28%	<u>\$154,994,379</u>	5.97%

CHANGES IN NET POSITION

The Authority's Operating Income for the year ended June 30, 2017 was \$7,021,608, which was a decrease of 23.08% as compared to fiscal year ended June 30, 2016. The Operating Income at June 30, 2016 was \$9,128,571 which was a decrease of 3.25% as compared to fiscal year ended June 30, 2015.

The Authority's increase in net position for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2017 and 2016 was \$7,021,608 and \$9,248,071, respectively.

Net loan interest income (Loan interest income less DOE Special Allowance Payments) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017 increased by \$154,183 or 0.53% as compared to the year ended June 30, 2016. Other income accounts for less than 10% of total revenues and is comprised of investment income, unrealized gains/losses on market adjustment of investment accounts and fee revenue. Other income decreased by \$1,125,625 or 33.20% as compared to June 30, 2016. Interest expense for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017 increased by \$1,120,002 or 8.86% as compared to June 30, 2016. The provision for loan losses (Bad Debt Expense) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017 increased by \$695,413 or 49.19% as compared to June 30, 2016.

	2017	2016	Percentage Change	2015	Percentage Change
Loan interest income	\$38,110,371	\$40,974,515	-6.99%	\$44,812,987	-8.57%
DOE special allowance payments	(8,773,389)	(11,791,716)	-25.60%	(14,705,793)	-19.82%
Other income	2,264,971	3,390,596	-33.20%	3,116,804	8.78%
Total income	31,601,953	32,573,395	-2.98%	33,223,998	-1.96%
Interest expense	13,757,555	12,637,553	8.86%	12,589,632	0.38%
Arbitrage rebate	(37,436)	436,864	108.57%	491,975	-11.20%
External loan servicing	1,865,051	1,830,297	1.90%	2,026,324	-9.67%
DOE loan fees	733,702	840,658	-12.72%	948,563	-11.38%
Provision for loan losses	2,109,021	1,413,608	49.19%	1,748,597	-19.16%
Other operating expenses	6,152,452	6,285,844	-2.12%	5,984,123	5.04%
Total expenses	24,580,345	23,444,824	4.84%	23,789,214	-1.45%
Operating Income	7,021,608	9,128,571		9,434,784	
Nonoperating Revenues	-	119,500		20,000	
Change in net position	7,021,608	9,248,071		9,454,784	
Net position, beginning of year	164,242,450	154,994,379		145,539,595	
Total net position, end of year	\$171,264,058	\$164,242,450	4.28%	\$154,994,379	5.97%

DEBT ADMINISTRATION

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

CONTACTING THE AUTHORITY’S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

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

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

STATEMENTS OF NET POSITION

JUNE 30, 2017 AND 2016

	2017	2016
Current Assets		
Cash, cash equivalents and investments:		
Unrestricted:		
Cash	\$ 411,297	\$ 535,407
Cash equivalents	145,036	2,063,647
Restricted:		
Cash	2,068,251	2,159,977
Cash equivalents	101,324,379	102,443,849
Investments	13,115,056	13,542,186
Student loans receivable	55,758,577	55,687,770
Accrued interest receivable:		
Student loans	19,029,184	18,019,664
Investments	66,564	57,918
Other receivables	97,033	39,394
Prepaid expenses	250,238	301,509
Total Current Assets	192,265,615	194,851,321
Noncurrent Assets		
Student loans receivable - net	514,114,061	550,291,370
Capital Assets		
Capital assets, less accumulated depreciation of \$713,625 and \$596,882, respectively	289,242	335,472
Total Assets	706,668,918	745,478,163

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

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

STATEMENTS OF NET POSITION (CONTINUED)

JUNE 30, 2017 AND 2016

	2017	2016
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Bonds payable, current portion	17,565,000	14,025,000
Due to U.S. Department of Education	1,843,868	2,657,330
Accrued interest payable	1,363,390	1,241,057
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	941,762	955,627
Grants payable	276,858	512,042
Note payable, current	3,002,663	1,582,488
Total Current Liabilities	24,993,541	20,973,544
Noncurrent Liabilities		
Bonds payable, net of current portion and bond premium (discount) of \$4,675,848 and \$4,040,152, respectively	493,679,848	546,309,152
Note payable, noncurrent	10,013,182	5,728,874
Accrued arbitrage rebate	2,528,549	2,611,736
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	506,221,579	554,649,762
Total Liabilities	531,215,120	575,623,306
Deferred Inflows of Resources		
Unavailable revenue - loan origination fees	4,189,740	5,612,407
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	4,189,740	5,612,407
Net Position		
Net investment in capital assets	289,242	335,472
Restricted for debt service	116,130,540	110,454,932
Unrestricted	54,844,276	53,452,046
Total Net Position	\$ 171,264,058	\$ 164,242,450

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, 2017 AND 2016

	2017	2016
Operating Revenues		
Interest income:		
Student loans	\$ 38,110,371	\$ 40,974,515
U.S. Department of Education Special Allowance Payments	(8,773,389)	(11,791,716)
Investments, net	326,282	452,053
Fee income	1,938,689	2,938,543
Total Operating Revenues	31,601,953	32,573,395
Operating Expenses		
Interest	13,757,555	12,637,553
Provision for loan losses	2,109,021	1,413,608
Provision (credit) for arbitrage rebate	(37,436)	436,864
U.S. Department of Education loan fees - consolidation rebate	733,702	840,658
Loan servicing and acquisition costs	1,865,051	1,830,297
Salaries	2,376,628	2,233,226
Administration	936,198	1,070,076
Employee benefits	688,299	666,233
College Planning Center expenses	781,768	828,123
Legal and accounting	262,330	308,016
Miscellaneous bond expenses	211,964	346,894
Bond issuance costs	602,176	592,769
Payroll taxes	176,347	165,686
Depreciation	116,742	74,821
Total Operating Expenses	24,580,345	23,444,824
Operating Income	7,021,608	9,128,571
Nonoperating Revenues and Expenses		
Gain on early redemption of bonds	--	119,500
Changes in Net Position	7,021,608	9,248,071
Net Position - Beginning of the Year	164,242,450	154,994,379
Net Position - End of the Year	\$ 171,264,058	\$ 164,242,450

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, 2017 AND 2016

	2017	2016
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Cash received for:		
Student loan interest	\$ 26,033,694	\$ 25,973,496
Student loan principal	116,235,184	120,252,797
Fee income	1,938,689	2,938,543
Interest on investments	545,354	358,524
Cash paid for:		
Grants	(235,184)	(355,190)
Origination and purchase of student loans	(80,128,682)	(62,501,591)
Interest paid on bonds	(14,804,703)	(13,493,987)
Contractual services	(733,702)	(840,658)
Goods and services	(6,942,968)	(6,431,583)
Employee salaries	(2,429,969)	(2,386,922)
Employee benefits	(688,299)	(666,233)
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	<u>38,789,414</u>	<u>62,847,196</u>
Cash Flows from Noncapital Financing Activities		
Proceeds from note payable	8,200,000	5,000,000
Payment of note payable	(2,495,517)	(1,249,822)
Payment of bond maturities	(99,980,000)	(106,746,500)
Proceeds from sale of revenue bonds	52,060,176	56,633,395
Net Cash Used in Noncapital Financing Activities	<u>(42,215,341)</u>	<u>(46,362,927)</u>
Cash Flows from Capital and Related Financing Activities		
Purchase of capital assets	(70,512)	(275,284)
Net Cash Used in Capital and Related Financing Activities	<u>(70,512)</u>	<u>(275,284)</u>
Cash Flows from Investing Activities		
Purchases of investment securities	(1,204,634)	(1,660,000)
Sales of investment securities	1,447,156	1,651,603
Net Cash Provided By (Used In) Investing Activities	<u>242,522</u>	<u>(8,397)</u>
Net (Decrease) Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(3,253,917)	16,200,588
Cash and Cash Equivalents, Beginning of Year	<u>107,202,880</u>	<u>91,002,292</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents, End of Year	<u>\$ 103,948,963</u>	<u>\$ 107,202,880</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, 2017 AND 2016

	2017	2016
Reconciliation of Operating Income to Net Cash Provided		
by Operating Activities		
Operating income	\$ 7,021,608	\$ 9,128,571
Adjustments to reconcile operating income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation of capital assets	116,742	74,821
Amortization - bond premiums and discounts	(1,169,482)	(959,919)
Increase in allowance for loan losses	1,037,463	477,794
Unrealized (gains) losses on investments	183,033	(97,953)
Realized losses on investments	1,577	8,481
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
Decrease in loans receivable	35,069,039	57,273,412
Decrease (increase) in other receivables	(57,639)	20,710
(Increase) in accrued interest receivable - loans	(1,822,982)	(1,148,009)
(Increase) in accrued interest receivable - investments	(8,646)	(4,057)
(Increase) decrease in prepaid expenses	51,271	(5,123)
Increase in bond accrued interest	122,333	101,235
(Decrease) in grants payable	(235,184)	(355,190)
(Decrease) in deferred inflows of resources	(1,422,667)	(2,082,229)
(Decrease) increase in accounts payable and accrued expenses	(97,052)	414,652
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	\$ 38,789,414	\$ 62,847,196
Cash and Cash Equivalents as reported in the financial statements consist of:		
Unrestricted:		
Cash	\$ 411,297	\$ 535,407
Cash Equivalents	145,036	2,063,647
Restricted:		
Cash	2,068,251	2,159,977
Cash Equivalents	101,324,379	102,443,849
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 103,948,963	\$ 107,202,880

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2017 AND 2016

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, 2017 AND 2016

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

DEBT ISSUANCE COSTS

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

OPERATING AND NON-OPERATING REVENUES AND EXPENSES

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

RESTRICTED VERSUS UNRESTRICTED RESOURCES

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

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Property and equipment is stated at cost. The Authority provides for depreciation using the straight-line method over the estimated useful life of the asset. The Authority estimates the useful life for leasehold improvements to be the same as the term of the lease, three years for computer equipment and five years for furniture and fixtures. Depreciation expense for fiscal years 2017 and 2016 totaled \$116,742 and \$74,821, respectively. Capital assets are defined by the Authority, as assets with an individual cost of \$2,500 or more and an estimated useful life in excess of one year.

STUDENT LOANS

The Authority originates and holds state based supplemental education student loans utilizing credit criteria approved by the bond resolution. These loans are not guaranteed under the Federal Higher Education Act. 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).

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2017 AND 2016

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

STUDENT LOANS (CONTINUED)

Student loans are carried at their uncollected principal balances and are reduced by an allowance for loan losses of \$51,419,038 and \$50,381,575 at June 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively. The allowance for loan losses is determined by management's evaluation of the student loan portfolios. This evaluation considers such factors as historical loss experience, quality of student loan servicing and collection, and economic conditions. When this evaluation determines that an exposure to loss is probable and reasonably estimated, a provision against current operations net of student loan recoveries is recorded. Actual losses are charged against the allowance for loan losses as they occur.

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

INTEREST ON LOANS RECEIVABLE

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

BOND PREMIUM AND DISCOUNT

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

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

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

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

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2017 AND 2016

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

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

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2017 AND 2016

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

VACATION AND SICK LEAVE

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

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

GRANTS PAYABLE

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

ACCRUED ARBITRAGE REBATE LIABILITY

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

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

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

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2017 AND 2016

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, 2017, 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, 2017 and 2016, 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 \$4,189,740 at June 30, 2017 and \$5,612,407 at June 30, 2016.

NET POSITION

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

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2017 AND 2016

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

NET POSITION (CONTINUED)

The financial activity associated with each of the Authority’s Student Loan Program Revenue Bonds is recorded in the trust established for each such bond issue. In accordance with the 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.

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 2016 financial statement amounts have been reclassified to conform to the 2017 presentation. There is no change in the reported change in net position.

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2017 AND 2016

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,	
	2017	2016
Cash Deposits		
Carrying amount of cash deposits:		
Unrestricted	\$ 411,297	\$ 535,407
Restricted	<u>2,068,251</u>	<u>2,159,977</u>
Total	<u>\$ 2,479,548</u>	<u>\$ 2,695,384</u>
Bank Balances		
Covered by Federal depository insurance	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000
Collateralized by financial institution	<u>2,047,344</u>	<u>1,256,142</u>
Total	<u>\$ 2,547,344</u>	<u>\$ 1,756,142</u>

CUSTODIAL CREDIT RISK - DEPOSITS

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

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2017 AND 2016

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

CUSTODIAL CREDIT RISK – DEPOSITS (CONTINUED)

	June 30,	
	2017	2016
	Fair Value	Fair Value
Cash equivalents and investments unrestricted:		
Cash equivalents (Unrestricted):		
Government Agency Bonds and Security Funds and Commercial Paper	\$ 145,036	\$ 2,063,647
Total Cash Equivalents	145,036	2,063,647
Total Unrestricted	145,036	2,063,647
Cash Equivalents and Investments (Restricted):		
Cash Equivalents:		
Money Market Funds and Commercial Paper	101,324,379	102,443,849
Investments:		
U.S. Treasury Notes	13,115,056	12,352,586
Investment agreements	--	1,189,600
Total Investments	13,115,056	13,542,186
Total Restricted	114,439,435	115,986,035
Total Cash Equivalents and Investments	\$ 114,584,471	\$ 118,049,682

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, 2017 AND 2016

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

CUSTODIAL CREDIT RISK – DEPOSITS (CONTINUED)

The Authority has also designated \$2,477,000 of unrestricted net position (loan receivables) to be used as pledged collateral in order to access funds from the line of credit (See Note 7). Amounts advanced from the line of credit are used to fund refinanced student loans.

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 priced in active markets that are accessible at the measurement date for identical assets or liabilities.

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

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

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

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

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2017 AND 2016

**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, 2017 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	April 30, 2020	\$ 380,757	\$ 380,757	\$ --	\$ --
U.S. Treasury Note	September 15, 2017	434,935	434,935	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	November 30, 2017	1,247,425	1,247,425	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	December 31, 2017	248,502	248,502	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	May 31, 2018	748,035	748,035	--	--
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	2,467,675	2,467,675	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	November 15, 2019	454,492	454,492	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	November 30, 2019	742,088	742,088	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	April 30, 2020	365,923	365,923	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	April 30, 2020	242,300	242,300	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	February 15, 2021	544,726	544,726	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	February 28, 2021	1,624,618	1,624,618	--	--
Total		<u>\$ 13,115,056</u>	<u>\$ 13,115,056</u>	<u>\$ --</u>	<u>\$ --</u>

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

Description	Maturity	Fair Value	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
U.S. Treasury Note	November 15, 2016	\$ 249,244	\$ 249,244	\$ --	\$ --
U.S. Treasury Note	November 30, 2016	1,250,675	1,250,675	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	December 15, 2016	623,635	623,635	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	April 15, 2017	386,167	386,167	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	September 15, 2017	437,292	437,292	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	November 30, 2017	1,251,025	1,251,025	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	December 31, 2017	249,652	249,652	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	May 31, 2018	755,798	755,798	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	July 31, 2018	991,323	991,323	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	September 30, 2018	1,033,801	1,033,801	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	May 15, 2019	400,811	400,811	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	May 31, 2019	1,253,190	1,253,190	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	November 15, 2019	472,671	472,671	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	November 30, 2019	754,890	754,890	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	February 15, 2021	570,741	570,741	--	--
U.S. Treasury Note	February 28, 2021	1,671,670	1,671,670	--	--
Transamerica Life Insurance Co. (GIC)	December 1, 2028	1,189,600	--	1,189,600	--
Total		<u>\$ 13,542,185</u>	<u>\$ 12,352,585</u>	<u>\$ 1,189,600</u>	<u>\$ --</u>

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2017 AND 2016

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

CUSTODIAL CREDIT RISK - INVESTMENTS

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

INTEREST RATE RISK

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

Description	Interest Rate	Maturity	June 30, 2017 Fair Value	June 30, 2016 Fair Value
Transamerica Life Insurance (GIC)	4.10%	December 1, 2028	\$ --	\$ 1,189,600

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017, the Authority had converted the investments in guaranteed investment contracts to a certificate of deposit.

CREDIT RISK

Credit risk is the risk that an issuer or other counterparty to an investment will not fulfill its obligations. According to the Authority's investment policy, funds will be invested in Investment Agreements permitted by the Authority's bond indentures. As mentioned above, the Authority liquidated the GIC and converted it to a CD during fiscal year ending June 30, 2017. As of June 30, 2016, the Authority's investment in Transamerica Life Insurance Co. Guaranteed Investment Contract was rated AA- by Standard and Poor's and A1 by Moody's Investor Services. If the credit rating of the investment providers decline, the Authority can require the provider to post additional collateral and or other remedies to ensure performance. All the remaining investments are either obligations of the U.S. Government or explicitly guaranteed by the U.S. Government.

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2017 AND 2016

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

CONCENTRATION OF CREDIT RISK

Concentration of credit risk is the risk of loss attributed to the magnitude of the Authority's investments in a single issuer. According to the Authority's investment policy, investments will be diversified to minimize the impact of potential losses from concentration in a specific maturity, a specific issuer or specific class of security. The Transamerica Life Insurance (GIC) represented 0% and 9% of the Authority's investments at June 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively.

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 Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner (Note 11), and other guarantors which have guarantee agreements covering all or a substantial portion of each loan with the U.S. Department of Education (DOE). The Authority also originates and holds state based private education loans and refinanced student loans for qualified students and their families.

The FFELP loans have both fixed and variable interest rates which are established by the DOE, and repayment terms which are dependent on the loan type. The return on FFELP loans that lenders actually realize is based on formulas administered by the DOE and is dependent on loan type and date of origination. Any payment by borrowers in excess of the formulas must be returned to the DOE for loans originated after April 1, 2006. The DOE subsidizes the interest for certain FFELP loans during the borrowers' in-school, in-grace, and authorized deferment periods. The subsidized interest rate is determined by a formula and based on indexes published by the U.S. Department of Education. The interest subsidy is included with interest income on loans receivable in the accompanying Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position. The state based supplemental 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.

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2017 AND 2016

NOTE 3 – LOANS RECEIVABLE (CONTINUED)

Net loans receivable at June 30, 2017 and 2016 are as follows:

	2017	2016
FFELP loans receivable	\$ 226,641,726	\$ 275,603,110
Supplemental education loans receivable	394,649,950	380,757,605
Allowance for loan losses	<u>(51,419,038)</u>	<u>(50,381,575)</u>
Net loans receivable	<u>\$ 569,872,638</u>	<u>\$ 605,979,140</u>

Student loans receivable are presented as assets on the statement of net position as follows at June 30, 2017 and 2016:

	2017	2016
Current	\$ 55,758,577	\$ 55,687,770
Noncurrent	<u>514,114,061</u>	<u>550,291,370</u>
Total	<u>\$ 569,872,638</u>	<u>\$ 605,979,140</u>

NOTE 4 – CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital assets activity during the years ended June 30, 2017 and 2016 was as follows:

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

NOTE 4 – CAPITAL ASSETS (CONTINUED)

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

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

NOTE 5 – OPERATING LEASES

In fiscal year 2016, the Authority leased its facility from the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner (Note 11) under an operating lease. The lease required monthly rental payments of \$9,689. The Authority was on a month-to-month lease which expired on June 30, 2016. The Authority entered into a new five year lease in February 2016 with 935 Jefferson, LLC (an unrelated third party), with a commencement date of June 2016. The monthly payments for the first twelve months are \$17,967; \$18,375 per month for year 2; \$18,783 per month for year 3; \$19,192 per month for year 4 and \$19,600 per month for year 5. Lease expense for the year ended June 30, 2017 and 2016 was \$216,008 and \$134,230, respectively.

Lease payments for the following years are:

Year Ending <u>June 30,</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2018	\$ 220,908
2019	225,808
2020	230,708
2021	215,600
Total	<u>\$ 893,024</u>

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2017 AND 2016

NOTE 6 – BONDS PAYABLE

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

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

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

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

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2017 AND 2016

NOTE 6 – BONDS PAYABLE (CONTINUED)

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 and 2016 was 1.383% and 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.

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

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

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

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

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2017 AND 2016

NOTE 6 – BONDS PAYABLE (CONTINUED)

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

On August 30, 2012, the Authority issued \$111,000,000 in 2012 Series-1 Taxable LIBOR Floating Rate Notes. The 2012 Series-1 Notes bear interest at a rate of one month LIBOR plus .90%. The interest rate resets on the second business day of each month. The notes have a final maturity date on July 1, 2031. On June 30, 2017 and 2016, interest on the 2012 Series-1 Notes was 1.95050% and 1.35665%, 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, 2017 and 2016, interest on the 2012-2 Notes was 1.70050% and 1.10665%, 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.

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2017 AND 2016

NOTE 6 – BONDS PAYABLE (CONTINUED)

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, 2017 and 2016, interest on the 2014-1 Notes were 1.75050% and 1.15665%, respectively. Proceeds of the notes were used to refund certain obligations of the Authority.

On April 21, 2015, the Authority issued \$41,365,000 in 2015 Tax Exempt Senior Series A Student Loan Program Revenue Bonds. The bonds are fixed rate with interest rates between 3.50% and 5.00% and maturities ranging from December 1, 2016 through December 1, 2031. 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.

In 2017 and 2016, the Authority redeemed bonds from various Student Loan Program Revenue Bonds. The Bonds were retired at par or at a discount of the Bond's stated par value ranging from 100% and 98% to 100% in 2017 and 2016, respectively. \$35,570,000 and \$37,385,000 of the outstanding Bonds were redeemed which resulted in a gain in the amount of \$0 and \$119,500 in 2017 and 2016, respectively.

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

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2017 AND 2016

NOTE 6 – BONDS PAYABLE (CONTINUED)

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

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

The required reserve for the March 1997, February 2002, February 2003, and April 2003 Bond issues is 2% of principal bonds outstanding. The required reserve for the July 2006 Bond issues is 1% of principal bonds outstanding. The required reserve for the May 2008 bond issue is 4% of the principal bonds outstanding. The required reserve for the July 2009, March 2010, December 2010, March 2012, March 2013, April 2014, April 2015, May 2016 and April 2017 Bond issues is 3% of principal bonds outstanding with a minimum requirement of \$2,715,650 for all outstanding senior obligations. The required reserve for the August 2012 bond issue is the greater of .25% of the principal bonds outstanding or \$250,000. The required reserve for the November 2012 bond issue is the greater of .25% of principal bonds outstanding or \$390,000. The Authority has purchased a surety bond issued by Ambac to fulfill the debt reserve fund obligation for the July 2006 Bond issues.

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

The Authority has been in compliance with the respective debt covenants as outlined in the Trust Indentures for fiscal years 2017 and 2016.

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2017 AND 2016

NOTE 6 – BONDS PAYABLE (CONTINUED)

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

Bond Issue	2017	2016
July 2006		
Series 1	\$ 700,000	\$ 2,450,000
Series 2	5,600,000	16,850,000
May 2008		
Senior Series A	18,605,000	24,235,000
Subordinated Series 1	4,000,000	4,000,000
July 2009		
Senior Series A	13,000,000	14,530,000
March 2010		
Senior Series A	9,245,000	12,490,000
December 2010		
Senior Series B	11,485,000	16,965,000
March 2012		
Senior Series A	10,430,000	14,490,000
August 2012		
Series 2012-1	47,431,000	58,301,000
November 2012		
Series 2012-2	114,369,000	141,569,000
March 2013		
Senior Series A	40,075,000	53,225,000
April 2014		
Senior Series A	31,650,000	33,750,000
June 2014		
Series 2014-1	54,759,000	67,074,000

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2017 AND 2016

NOTE 6 – BONDS PAYABLE (CONTINUED)

April 2015		
Series 2015-A	39,965,000	41,365,000
June 2016-A		
Series 2016-A	55,000,000	55,000,000
June 2017-A		
Series 2017-A	<u>50,255,000</u>	<u>--</u>
Subtotal	506,569,000	556,294,000
Add: Premium	5,844,350	5,490,638
Less: Discount	1,168,502	1,450,486
Less: Current portion	<u>17,565,000</u>	<u>14,025,000</u>
Total	<u>\$ 493,679,848</u>	<u>\$ 546,309,152</u>

The following schedule reflects the changes in bonds payable:

Balance at June 30, 2014	\$ 698,572,000
Additions	41,365,000
Redemptions	<u>(131,777,000)</u>
Balance at June 30, 2015	\$ 608,160,000
Additions	55,000,000
Redemptions	<u>(106,866,000)</u>
Balance at June 30, 2016	556,294,000
Additions	50,255,000
Redemptions	<u>(99,980,000)</u>
Balance at June 30, 2017	<u>\$ 506,569,000</u>

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2017 AND 2016

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
2018	\$ 17,565,000	\$ 16,002,384	\$ 33,567,384
2019	17,615,000	15,144,386	32,759,386
2020	20,725,000	14,390,469	35,115,469
2021	21,700,000	13,553,535	35,253,535
2022	22,870,000	12,508,182	35,378,182
2023	21,250,000	11,524,852	32,774,852
2024	22,065,000	10,648,032	32,713,032
2025	25,280,000	9,644,598	34,924,598
2026	21,805,000	8,592,160	30,397,160
2027	17,460,000	7,689,304	25,149,304
2028	14,575,000	7,018,539	21,593,539
2029	67,934,000	6,459,217	74,393,217
2030	6,580,000	4,877,348	11,457,348
2031	7,820,000	4,505,712	12,325,712
2032	65,406,000	3,497,338	68,903,338
2033	2,800,000	2,637,099	5,437,099
2034	8,050,000	2,539,099	10,589,099
2035	4,400,000	2,224,474	6,624,474
2036	--	2,032,213	2,032,213
2037	114,369,000	422,815	114,791,815
2038	--	87,129	87,129
2039	--	87,129	87,129
2040	--	87,368	87,368
2041	<u>6,300,000</u>	<u>36,761</u>	<u>6,336,761</u>
Total	<u>\$ 506,569,000</u>	<u>\$ 156,210,143</u>	<u>\$ 662,779,143</u>

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2017 AND 2016

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.

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 expires on June 2, 2018, and 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 notes. 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 13th of every month, beginning on March 13, 2015. During FY 2016, the Company drew an additional \$5,000,000 on the Line, which was subsequently converted to two separate term notes, as described below. On September 23, 2015, \$3,000,000 was converted into a term note (the September 2015 Note). The September 2015 Note matures on August 23, 2019 and has an interest rate of 2.51%. Principal payments of \$63,830 plus interest are due on the 23rd of every month, beginning on October 23, 2015. On December 22, 2015, \$2,000,000 was converted into a term note (the December 2015 Note). The December Note matures on January 22, 2023 and has an interest rate of 3.29%. Principal payments of \$23,529 plus interest are due on the 22nd of every month, beginning on January 22, 2016.

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2017 AND 2016

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

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 25th of every month, beginning on August 25, 2016.

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.

As of June 30, 2017, the total principal balance outstanding under the February 2015 Note, the September 2015 Note, the December 2015 Note, the July 2016 and the December 2016 Notes was collectively \$13,015,845. In addition, the Authority can also borrow up to an additional \$20,000,000 against The Line as of June 30, 2017.

As part of the above financings, the Authority was required to meet certain financial covenants. As of June 30, 2017, the Authority was in compliance with these covenants. Debt service requirements for bonds and notes payable at June 30, 2017 were as follows:

Bonds				Term Note				Total Long Term Debt			
Year	Principal	Interest	Total	Year	Principal	Interest	Total	Year	Principal	Interest	Total
2018	\$ 17,565,000	\$ 16,002,384	\$ 33,567,384	2018	\$ 3,002,663	\$ 363,186	\$ 3,365,849	2018	\$ 20,567,663	\$ 16,365,570	\$ 36,933,233
2019	17,615,000	15,144,386	32,759,386	2019	3,002,663	272,364	3,275,027	2019	20,617,663	15,416,750	36,034,413
2020	20,725,000	14,390,469	35,115,469	2020	2,364,366	187,551	2,551,917	2020	23,089,366	14,578,020	37,667,386
2021	21,700,000	13,553,535	35,253,535	2021	1,894,153	118,381	2,012,534	2021	23,594,153	13,671,916	37,266,069
2022-2026	113,270,000	52,917,824	166,187,824	2022-2026	2,752,000	93,541	2,845,541	2022-2026	116,022,000	53,011,365	169,033,365
2027-2031	114,369,000	30,550,120	144,919,120	2027-2031	--	--	--	2027-2031	114,369,000	30,550,120	144,919,120
2032-2036	80,656,000	12,930,223	93,586,223	2032-2036	--	--	--	2032-2036	80,656,000	12,930,223	93,586,223
2037-2041	120,669,000	721,202	121,390,202	2037-2041	--	--	--	2037-2041	120,669,000	721,202	121,390,202
	<u>\$ 506,569,000</u>	<u>\$ 156,210,143</u>	<u>\$ 662,779,143</u>		<u>\$ 13,015,845</u>	<u>\$ 1,035,023</u>	<u>\$ 14,050,868</u>		<u>\$ 519,584,845</u>	<u>\$ 157,245,166</u>	<u>\$ 676,830,011</u>

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2017 AND 2016

NOTE 8 – ACCRUED ARBITRAGE REBATE

Accrued arbitrage rebate at June 30, 2017 and 2016 consisted of the following:

	2017	2016
Total Accrued Arbitrage Rebate	\$ 2,528,549	\$ 2,611,736

The following schedule reflects the changes in accrued arbitrage rebate:

Balance at June 30, 2015		\$ 2,246,320
Increase in earnings above permitted yield		464,419
Decrease in earnings below permitted yield		(27,555)
Payments		(71,448)
Balance at June 30, 2016		2,611,736
Increase in earnings above permitted yield		134,881
Decrease in earnings below permitted yield		(218,068)
Balance at June 30, 2017		\$ 2,528,549

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, 2017 AND 2016

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.

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 \$230,574 and \$234,859 in monthly revenue from Aspire and MOHELA to service the Federal Student Loans for the years ended June 30, 2017 and 2016, 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, 2017 AND 2016

NOTE 10 – DEFINED CONTRIBUTION RETIREMENT PLAN

In July 1989, the Authority established a defined single-employer contribution plan named Rhode Island Student Loan Authority pursuant to Section 403 (b) of the Internal Revenue Code, which provides pension benefits for all of its full-time employees. In a defined contribution plan, benefits depend solely on amounts contributed to the plan plus investment earnings and less expenses. The assets of the plan are held with the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association and the College Retirement Equities Fund. Employees are eligible to participate on the first of the month following employment. The Authority contributes 10% of the employee's salary each month and all contributions and investment earnings are fully vested immediately. Employer contributions for 2017 and 2016 amounted to \$264,624 and \$249,449, respectively. Employee contributions for 2017 and 2016 amounted to \$124,112 and \$162,109 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.

The Rhode Island Student Loan Authority is a related party to OPC. The outstanding FFELP loans guaranteed by DHEA were \$213,407,174 and \$259,319,057 at June 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively.

Facility lease expense paid to OPC for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2017 and 2016 was \$-0- and \$116,263, respectively.

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, 2017 and 2016.

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2017 AND 2016

NOTE 13 – SUBSEQUENT EVENT

The Authority has evaluated subsequent events through October 13, 2017, the date these financial statements were authorized for issuance.

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.

**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, 2017, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated October 13, 2017.

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
October 13, 2017



RISLA

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