

**South Carolina State
Education Assistance Authority**

Report on Financial Statements

For the years ended June 30, 2021 and 2020

South Carolina State Education Assistance Authority

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October 1, 2021

Members of the Authority
South Carolina State Education Assistance Authority
Columbia, South Carolina

This report on the audit of the financial statements of the South Carolina State Education Assistance Authority for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021, was issued by Elliott Davis, LLC, Certified Public Accountants, under contract with the South Carolina Office of the State Auditor.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please let us know.

Respectfully submitted,

George L. Kennedy, III, CPA
State Auditor

GLKIII/trb



Independent Auditor's Report

Mr. George L. Kennedy, III, CPA
State Auditor
South Carolina Office of the State Auditor
Columbia, South Carolina

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the South Carolina State Education Assistance Authority (the "Authority"), a component unit of the State of South Carolina, as of and for the years ended June 30, 2021 and 2020, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Authority's basic 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 financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. 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 from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the 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 South Carolina State Education Assistance Authority as of June 30, 2021 and 2020, and the changes in its financial position and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis, as listed in the table of contents, 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 Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Authority's basic financial statements. The individual fund schedules and schedule of organizational data are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The individual fund schedules are the responsibility of management and were derived from and relate directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the individual fund schedules are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

The schedule of organizational data has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements, and accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated October 1, 2021 on our consideration of the 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 the Authority's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Columbia, South Carolina
October 1, 2021

South Carolina State Education Assistance Authority

Management's Discussion and Analysis

The South Carolina State Education Assistance Authority (the "Authority") was originally created to fill functions to provide and guarantee financing for education loans for students and parents. As a provider of financing, the Authority issued bonds to finance education loans issued by the eligible lender, South Carolina Student Loan Corporation ("SCSLC"). The Authority is an authorized conduit issuer for tax-exempt bonds for the purpose of providing funding for higher education loans issued by an eligible lender. SCSLC is a not-for-profit entity eligible to issue higher education loans. As an authorized tax-exempt debt issuer, the Authority has partnered with SCSLC to assist in financing education loans since the Authority's inception. For every bond financing, SCSLC and the Authority enter into a loan agreement pursuant to the terms in which the Authority has agreed to lend bond proceeds to SCSLC to enable SCSLC to make or acquire education loans. The obligation of SCSLC to repay the finance loans is evidenced by a promissory note of SCSLC and is secured by a pledge under the loan agreement.

As a guarantor, the Authority processed loans submitted for guarantee, provided collection assistance for delinquent loans, paid claims for loans in default, collected loans on which default claims had been paid, and made appropriate responses to the United States Secretary of Education. As stipulated in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act ("HCERA") of 2010, effective July 1, 2010, all federal loan originations are required to be made through the federal Direct Loan Program. Therefore, the Authority did not provide a guarantee for federal loans originated since July 1, 2010.

As a result of the HCERA of 2010 and subsequent actions taken by the federal government which nationalized the federally-guaranteed student loan program, continuing guarantor operations under the guaranty agreement between the Authority and the United States Department of Education ("USDE") would result in an economic loss to the Authority. Therefore, on June 22, 2016, the State Fiscal Accountability Authority ("SFAA") initiated action to terminate the guaranty agreement between the Authority and USDE. Effective December 1, 2016, a USDE designated guaranty agency accepted the transfer of all the Authority's outstanding guarantees and the Authority's post-claim portfolio. The Authority no longer serves as a guaranty agency for the USDE.

This section of the Authority's annual financial report presents a discussion and analysis of the Authority's financial performance for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021. Please read it in conjunction with the Authority's Statements of Net Position, Statements of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Net Position, Statements of Cash Flows, and the Notes to Financial Statements, which follow this section.

Financial Highlights:

The Authority's total assets at June 30, 2021 were approximately \$171,577,000, which is a decrease of approximately \$5,355,000 or 3% from June 30, 2020. The decrease in assets was primarily due to reductions of approximately \$6,431,000 in finance loans receivable. The decrease in finance loans receivable reflected provisions of the loan agreement with SCSLC related to the Authority's 2009 Palmetto Assistance Loan ("PAL") General Resolution. This decrease was offset by an increase of approximately \$2,230,000 in cash and cash equivalents.

South Carolina State Education Assistance Authority

Management's Discussion and Analysis

Financial Highlights, Continued:

The Authority's operating revenues for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021 were approximately \$1,281,000, reflecting a decrease of approximately \$528,000 or 29% from the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020. This decrease was primarily attributed to the decrease in reimbursement of bond expense.

The Authority's interest expense for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021 was approximately \$723,000, reflecting a decrease of approximately \$354,000 or 33% from the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020. This reduction was primarily due to the normal payment activity on the outstanding bonds of the Authority during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021.

Operating expenses were approximately \$653,000 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021, reflecting a decrease of approximately \$112,000 or 15% from the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020. This decrease was primarily attributed to the decrease in SCSLC for operating costs and loan fees.

Overview of the Financial Statements:

The Authority's financial statements are prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP") as applied on the accrual basis. Under the accrual basis of GAAP, revenues are recognized during the period in which they are earned, and expenses are recognized during the period in which they are incurred. The three basic financial statements presented within the financial statements are as follows:

Statements of Net Position - This statement presents information regarding the Authority's assets, liabilities, and net position. Net position represents the total assets less the total liabilities. The Statements of Net Position classifies assets and liabilities as current and long-term and net position as restricted and unrestricted.

Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position - This statement presents the Authority's operating revenues, operating expenses, non-operating income and expenses, and changes in net position for the fiscal year.

Statements of Cash Flows - The Authority's Statements of Cash Flows is presented on the direct method of reporting, which reflects cash flows from operating, non-capital financing, and investing activities.

South Carolina State Education Assistance Authority

Management's Discussion and Analysis

Financial Analysis:

The Authority's total net position at June 30, 2021 was approximately \$156,206,000, which is an increase of approximately \$1,777,000 or 1% from June 30, 2020. Components of the Authority's Statements of Net Position as of June 30 were as follows:

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>Percentage +/-</u>
Current assets	\$ 112,175,829	\$ 110,646,633	1.4 %
Long-term assets	<u>59,400,891</u>	<u>66,285,461</u>	(10.4) %
Total assets	<u>\$ 171,576,720</u>	<u>\$ 176,932,094</u>	(3.0) %
Current liabilities	\$ 6,749,469	\$ 1,969,109	242.8 %
Long-term liabilities	<u>8,620,908</u>	<u>20,533,942</u>	(58.0) %
Total liabilities	<u>15,370,377</u>	<u>22,503,051</u>	(31.7) %
Net position:			
Restricted	72,303,300	70,982,778	1.9 %
Unrestricted	<u>83,903,043</u>	<u>83,446,265</u>	0.6 %
Total net position	<u>156,206,343</u>	<u>154,429,043</u>	1.1 %
Total liabilities and net position	<u>\$ 171,576,720</u>	<u>\$ 176,932,094</u>	(3.0) %

Components of the Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position for these two fiscal years were as follows:

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>Percentage +/-</u>
Operating revenues:			
Loan interest income	\$ 1,281,200	\$ 1,808,880	(29.0) %
Total operating revenues	<u>1,281,200</u>	<u>1,808,880</u>	(29.0) %
Operating expenses:			
General administration	38,923	31,463	23.7 %
External loan servicing	308,393	361,758	(14.8) %
Borrower incentives	63,995	74,708	(14.3) %
Other fees	<u>241,812</u>	<u>297,248</u>	(18.7) %
Total operating expenses	<u>653,123</u>	<u>765,177</u>	(14.6) %
Operating income	628,077	1,043,703	(39.8) %
Non-operating income (expense):			
Investment income	1,871,837	2,087,181	(10.3) %
Interest expense	<u>(722,614)</u>	<u>(1,076,818)</u>	(32.9) %
Total non-operating income	<u>1,149,223</u>	<u>1,010,363</u>	13.7 %
Change in net position	1,777,300	2,054,066	(13.5) %
Beginning net position	<u>154,429,043</u>	<u>152,374,977</u>	1.4 %
Ending net position	<u>\$ 156,206,343</u>	<u>\$ 154,429,043</u>	1.2 %

South Carolina State Education Assistance Authority

Management's Discussion and Analysis

Debt Administration:

The Authority is an authorized conduit issuer for tax-exempt bonds for the purpose of providing funding for higher education loans issued by an eligible lender. SCSLC is designated as the eligible lender of such loans. The bonds must be approved by the Authority and SCSLC's Board of Directors prior to being issued. Tax-exempt bonds also must receive an allocation of the State of South Carolina private activity volume ceiling or "cap". In addition, the financings must comply with federal statutes and with the rules and regulations of the United States Department of the Treasury.

At June 30, 2021 and 2020, the Authority had \$10,025,000 and \$17,015,000 in principal amount of bonds outstanding, respectively. Detailed information on the Authority's debt is presented in Note 7 to the financial statements.

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>Percentage +/-</u>
Student and finance loans receivable	\$ 25,037,557	\$ 32,453,609	(22.9) %
Bonds outstanding	10,025,000	17,015,000	(41.1) %

Economic Outlook:

The Authority is not currently engaged in any default prevention, default collections or default aversion activities. As of September 9, 2021, the Authority forwarded its final payment to the federal government for the Paul Douglas program fulfilling its duty as the administrator of that program (see Note 8 and 13). The Authority is no longer administering any programs on behalf of the federal government and does not have any immediate plans to do so in the future.

South Carolina State Education Assistance Authority

Statements of Net Position

As of June 30, 2021 and 2020

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>		<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Assets			Liabilities		
Current assets			Current liabilities		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 31,945,194	\$ 30,499,010	Accounts payable	\$ 23,634	\$ 24,130
Cash and cash equivalents - restricted	73,983,529	73,200,141	Due to South Carolina Student Loan Corporation	481,716	598,538
Receivables:			Due to United States Department of Education	148,827	148,204
Current portion of student loans	1,426,627	2,892,406	Customer refunds payable	-	545
Current portion of finance loans	4,045,047	3,110,750	Unearned revenues	5,399	6,631
Interest due from borrower	577,005	654,165	Payable from restricted assets:		
Due from South Carolina Student Loan Corporation	125,535	211,142	Current portion of bonds payable	5,964,990	980,000
Due from servicers	70,892	77,019	Accrued bond interest payable	124,903	211,061
Due from United States Department of Education	-	-	Total current liabilities	<u>6,749,469</u>	<u>1,969,109</u>
Accrued interest receivable	-	-			
Prepays	2,000	2,000	Long-term liabilities		
Total current assets	<u>112,175,829</u>	<u>110,646,633</u>	Due to United States Department of Education	4,808,722	4,808,722
Long-term assets			Bonds payable, less current maturities	3,812,186	15,725,220
Receivables:			Total long-term liabilities	<u>8,620,908</u>	<u>20,533,942</u>
Student loans, less current portion and net of			Total liabilities	<u>\$ 15,370,377</u>	<u>\$ 22,503,051</u>
allowance for loan loss of \$21,152 in 2021 and \$19,092 in 2020	10,441,945	9,961,306			
Finance loans, less current portion	9,123,938	16,489,147	Net Position		
Due from South Carolina Student Loan Corporation	39,835,008	39,835,008	Restricted for:		
Total long-term assets	<u>59,400,891</u>	<u>66,285,461</u>	Debt service		
Total assets	<u>\$ 171,576,720</u>	<u>\$ 176,932,094</u>	Bond indentures - 2009 resolution	\$ 6,865,693	\$ 6,932,638
			Other		
			Guaranty agency operating account	65,437,607	64,050,140
			Unrestricted	83,903,043	83,446,265
			Total net position	<u>\$ 156,206,343</u>	<u>\$ 154,429,043</u>

See Notes to Financial Statements

South Carolina State Education Assistance Authority
Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position
For the years ended June 30, 2021 and 2020

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Operating revenues		
Income from South Carolina Student Loan Corporation:		
Subsidized interest	\$ 29,620	\$ 39,890
Special allowance	(484,793)	(353,854)
Non-subsidized interest	756,832	843,727
Late charges	712	8,151
Miscellaneous payments of student loans	30	85
Reimbursement of bond expense	978,799	1,270,881
Total operating revenues	<u>1,281,200</u>	<u>1,808,880</u>
Operating expenses		
Contractual services	38,297	30,803
General operating	626	660
South Carolina Student Loan Corporation for operating costs	308,393	361,758
Loan fees	227,502	262,212
Borrower incentives	63,995	74,708
Broker/dealer fees	11,300	23,267
Reinsurance expense	951	18,237
Loan loss adjustments	2,059	(6,468)
Total operating expenses	<u>653,123</u>	<u>765,177</u>
Operating income	628,077	1,043,703
Non-operating income (expense)		
Investment income	1,871,837	2,087,181
Bond interest expense	(722,614)	(1,076,818)
Total non-operating income (expense)	<u>1,149,223</u>	<u>1,010,363</u>
Change in net position	1,777,300	2,054,066
Net position		
Beginning of year	154,429,043	152,374,977
End of year	<u>\$ 156,206,343</u>	<u>\$ 154,429,043</u>

See Notes to Financial Statements

South Carolina State Education Assistance Authority

Statements of Cash Flows

For the years ended June 30, 2021 and 2020

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
<i>Cash flows from operating activities</i>		
Receipts from South Carolina Student Loan services provided	\$ 2,435,234	\$ 4,105,516
Payments to suppliers, lenders and borrowers	(771,595)	(697,038)
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>1,663,639</u>	<u>3,408,478</u>
<i>Cash flows from non-capital financing activities</i>		
Finance loan payments received from South Carolina Student Loan Corporation for student loans	6,430,912	7,081,913
Payments on bonds payable	(6,990,000)	(7,790,000)
Interest paid on revenue bonds	(746,816)	(1,110,181)
Net cash used for non-capital financing activities	<u>(1,305,904)</u>	<u>(1,818,268)</u>
<i>Cash flows from investing activities</i>		
Interest received on investment securities	1,871,837	2,087,218
Net cash provided by investing activities	<u>1,871,837</u>	<u>2,087,218</u>
<i>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</i>	2,229,572	3,677,428
<i>Cash and cash equivalents</i>		
Beginning of year	103,699,151	100,021,723
End of year	<u>\$ 105,928,723</u>	<u>\$ 103,699,151</u>

See Notes to Financial Statements

South Carolina State Education Assistance Authority

Statements of Cash Flows

For the years ended June 30, 2021 and 2020

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Reconciliation of operating income to net cash provided by operating activities		
Operating income	\$ 628,077	\$ 1,043,703
Adjustments to reconcile operating income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Loan loss adjustments	2,060	(6,468)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Prepays	-	3,336
Student loans receivable	983,080	2,153,744
Interest due from borrower	77,160	(52,816)
Due from South Carolina Student Loan Corporation	85,607	95,488
Due from servicers	6,127	72,339
Due from United States Department of Education	-	34,349
Accounts payable	(496)	6,830
Due to United States Department of Education	623	79,668
Customer refunds payable	(545)	(5,376)
Unearned revenues	(1,232)	(7,106)
Due to South Carolina Student Loan Corporation	(116,822)	(9,213)
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>\$ 1,663,639</u>	<u>\$ 3,408,478</u>

See Notes to Financial Statements

South Carolina State Education Assistance Authority

Notes to Financial Statements

For the Years Ended June 30, 2021 and 2020

Note 1. Nature of Business and Significant Accounting Policies

Reporting entity:

The South Carolina State Education Assistance Authority (the "Authority") is a body politic and a corporate public instrumentality of the State of South Carolina. The Authority is a part of the State of South Carolina created by Act No. 433 of the Acts and Joint Resolutions of the General Assembly for the year 1971, now codified as Chapter 115, Title 59 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended. The Authority is governed by the State Fiscal Accountability Authority ("SFAA") whose members by virtue of their position in State government include the Governor, State Treasurer, Comptroller General, Chairman of Senate Finance Committee and Chairman of the South Carolina House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee.

The Authority is a discretely presented component unit of the State of South Carolina because of the common Board and its financial accountability over the Authority. The funds of the Authority are included in the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report of the State of South Carolina. The financial statements of the Authority present the financial position, results of operations and cash flows solely of the Authority and do not include any component units, organizations, or other funds of the State of South Carolina.

The Authority discharges its statutory obligations through a program developed for the financing of education loans issued by the eligible lender, South Carolina Student Loan Corporation ("SCSLC") herein referred to as the "Student Loan Finance Program".

The Authority was originally created to provide a means of providing lower cost of funds for an eligible lender making loans to students in order to enable them to attend eligible institutions, as such terms are defined in the Higher Education Act. Such loan financing has been conducted by the Authority through its Student Loan Finance Program which has, since its inception, been administered by SCSLC.

The Authority has been authorized by the State of South Carolina to issue revenue bonds for the purpose of providing funding to an eligible lender making student loans. The Authority has approved SCSLC as the eligible lender under its Student Loan Finance Program and has designated it as the private, non-profit agency to administer these loans. It is the duty of SCSLC to process applications, make student loans and collect principal, interest, fees, and penalties on such loans. Loans may or may not be subsidized. Interest is paid on subsidized loans during the enrolled, grace and deferred periods by the United States Department of Education ("USDE"). Upon entering the repayment period, the interest is paid by the borrower. Special Allowance Payments ("SAP") are calculated as the difference between the amount of interest SCSLC receives from the borrower or the government and the variable amount that is provided under the requirements of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, which is a predefined rate for each loan type. The SAP is calculated quarterly and the net amount of the government interest less the SAP due to USDE is paid by the Authority. Principal and interest collections from the loans held as collateral under the 2009 Palmetto Assistance Loan ("PAL") General Resolution are forwarded to the bond trustee daily.

The operations of the Authority are administered by employees of SCSLC. Previously, the Authority would reimburse SCSLC upon request for the actual operating expenses incurred in the administration of the Authority's programs in accordance with a previously approved budget. All leases and property are in the name of SCSLC and the Authority paid its pro rata share based on space occupied, equipment usage, and loan servicing costs (see Note 9). Effective July 1, 2017, the Authority and SCSLC established a contractual relationship where the Authority pays an agreed-upon cost to SCSLC which encompasses the operating expenses for the Authority.

South Carolina State Education Assistance Authority

Notes to Financial Statements

For the Years Ended June 30, 2021 and 2020

Note 1. Nature of Business and Significant Accounting Policies, Continued

Reporting entity, continued:

Neither the Authority nor SCSLC is considered a component unit of the other because each is a separate legal organization and not financially accountable to/for the other.

During May 1978, the Authority initiated its Student Loan Insurance Program and commenced guaranteeing Guaranteed Loans as the guaranty agency for the State of South Carolina under §428(c) of the Higher Education Act. To administer its Student Loan Insurance Program effectively, the Authority processed loans submitted for guarantee, issued loan guarantees, provided collection assistance for delinquent loans, paid claims for loans in default, collected payments on loans on which default claims have been paid, and made appropriate responses to the United States Secretary of Education. The Authority was also responsible for initiating policy and performing compliance reviews as required by the Higher Education Act with respect to certain schools participating in the Student Loan Insurance Program.

As a result of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 and subsequent actions taken by the federal government which nationalized the federally guaranteed student loan program, continuing guarantor operations under the guaranty agreement between the Authority and the USDE would result in an economic loss to the Authority. Therefore, on June 22, 2016, the SFAA delegated to SCSLC the authority to communicate with USDE at the appropriate time to terminate the guaranty agreement, cease operating as a guaranty agency under the Higher Education Act of 1965. Effective December 1, 2016, the Authority transferred all of its outstanding guarantees and its post-claim portfolio to the USDE designee, Educational Credit Management Corporation ("ECMC").

Business-type activity:

The Authority is organized as an enterprise fund and further subdivided on the basis of sub-funds, each of which is considered separately for internal reporting purposes. The operation of each sub-fund uses a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, net position, revenues, and expenses.

The Authority's sub-funds include the Collection/Prior Unpledged Fund, 2009 PAL General Resolution Fund, Eligible Lender Trust Fund, and the Agency Operating Fund. The Authority's activities include issuing revenue bonds to finance higher education student loans, which are created and administered by SCSLC.

The Collection/Prior Unpledged Fund collects all payments on loans on behalf of the Authority and SCSLC. Funds are transferred daily to the appropriate bond trustees or monthly to SCSLC.

The 2009 PAL General Resolution Fund constitutes pledged income for the liquidation of outstanding bonds after transfers for operations. Restricted assets of the 2009 PAL General Resolution include principal and interest funds for future debt service, a debt reserve fund equaling the greater of two percent (2%) of the outstanding bond principal or an \$850,000 minimum, a Loan Fund, a General Revenue Fund which holds collections of principal and interest from borrowers, a Department Reserve Fund, and a Capitalized Interest Fund. The Trustee withdraws funds from the General Revenue Fund on approximately the 10th day of each month to make deposits into the other funds to meet required interest and operating expense obligations. Any remaining funds are deposited to the principal account.

South Carolina State Education Assistance Authority

Notes to Financial Statements

For the Years Ended June 30, 2021 and 2020

Note 1. Nature of Business and Significant Accounting Policies, Continued

Business-type activity, continued:

The Eligible Lender Trust Fund maintains student loans for the Authority that were created when the bonds under the 1993 Resolution were redeemed. The Authority collects revenue from borrowers and USDE and pays the related expenses for the loans.

The Agency Operating Fund was historically used to account for operations of the Authority in its capacity as a guarantee agency. It was used to account for account maintenance fees, default aversion fees, and the retention on default collections. The monies in this fund are restricted for the use of default prevention, default collection activities and compliance monitoring. Since the termination of the guarantee function of the Authority on December 1, 2016, the Agency Operating Fund has been utilized for default prevention programs and compliance monitoring. As of fiscal year-end 2021, the Authority was not actively participating in any default prevention activities.

Basis of accounting:

The Authority's financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. Under the accrual basis of accounting, revenue is recognized when earned, and expenses are recorded when incurred. Investment income is recorded at stated interest rates with no amortization of premiums or discounts. Net increases (decreases) in the fair value of investments includes unrealized and realized gains and losses. Bond premiums and discounts are amortized/accreted over the life of the bonds and netted against interest expense.

Budget and budgetary accounting:

Certain expenses for the Authority are budgeted as a management control device. However, the cost of issuing bonds, SCSLC expenses, interest expense, and other fees and revenue are not budgeted. Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America do not require a comparison of budget to actual expenses.

These budgets are approved by the South Carolina State Treasurer and are not adopted by the State Legislature or printed in the Appropriations Act. The Authority is subject to State laws and regulations. Expenses in excess of the budgeted amounts are not in violation of State laws.

South Carolina State Education Assistance Authority

Notes to Financial Statements

For the Years Ended June 30, 2021 and 2020

Note 1. Nature of Business and Significant Accounting Policies, Continued

Non-exchange transactions:

The Authority adheres to GASB Statement No. 33, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Non-Exchange Transactions*, which standardizes the accounting and financial reporting for non-exchange transactions involving financial or capital resources. For the Authority, there are generally two types of non-exchange transactions: *Government-mandated non-exchange transactions* which occur when a government at one level provides resources to a government at another level and requires the recipient to use the resources for a specific purpose; and *voluntary non-exchange transactions* which result from legislative or contractual agreements, other than exchanges, entered into willingly by the parties to the agreement. The Authority recognizes non-exchange transactions when they are both measurable and probable of collection. For *Government-mandated non-exchange transactions* and *voluntary non-exchange transactions*, the Authority recognizes assets when all applicable eligibility requirements are met or resources are received, whichever is first, and revenue when all applicable eligibility requirements are met.

Use of estimates:

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Cash and cash equivalents:

The amounts shown in the financial statements as cash and cash equivalents represent cash on deposit in banks, cash on hand with the State Treasurer and cash invested in various instruments by the State Treasurer as part of the State's cash management pool and cash invested in various instruments by the Bank of New York Mellon.

Because the State's cash management pool operates as a demand deposit account, amounts invested in the cash management pool are classified as cash and cash equivalents. The State Treasurer administers the cash management pool. The cash management pool includes some long-term investments such as obligations of the United States and certain agencies of the United States, obligations of domestic corporations, certificates of deposit and collateralized repurchase agreements. Most State agencies participate in the cash management pool; however, some agency accounts are not included in the cash management pool because of restrictions on the use of the funds. For those accounts, cash equivalents include investments in short-term, highly liquid securities including those that are classified as restricted having a maturity at the time of purchase of three months or less.

The State's cash management pool consists of a general deposit account and several special deposit accounts. The State records each fund's equity interest in the general deposit account; however, all earnings on that account are credited to the General Fund of the State of South Carolina.

South Carolina State Education Assistance Authority

Notes to Financial Statements

For the Years Ended June 30, 2021 and 2020

Note 1. Nature of Business and Significant Accounting Policies, Continued

Cash and cash equivalents, continued:

The Authority records and reports its deposits in the general deposit account at cost. The Authority reports its deposits in the special deposit accounts at fair value. Investments held in the cash management pool are recorded at fair value. Interest earned by the Authority's special deposit accounts is posted to the Authority's account at the end of each month and is retained by the Authority. Interest earnings are allocated based on the percentage of the Authority's accumulated daily interest receivable to the total undistributed interest received by the cash management pool. Reported interest income includes interest earnings, realized gains/losses, and unrealized gains/losses arising from changes in the fair value of investments in the cash management pool. Realized gains and losses are allocated monthly and are included in the accumulated income receivable. Unrealized gains and losses are allocated at fiscal year-end based on the Authority's percentage ownership in the cash management pool.

Although the State's cash management pool includes some long-term investments, it operates as a demand deposit account. For credit risk information pertaining to the State's cash management pool, see the *Deposits and Investments* disclosures in Note 2.

Student loans - provision for loan losses:

The provision for losses on student loans represents the Authority's estimate of the costs related to the 2% to 3% risk sharing on FFELP loans. In making the estimate, the Authority considers the trend in default rates in the loan guarantee portfolio, past and anticipated loss experience, current operating information, and changes in economic conditions. The provision is based on total guaranteed loans times the 2% or 3% exposure risk rate times the default rate. However, the evaluation is inherently subjective and the provisions may significantly change in the future. The allowance for loan losses was \$21,152 and \$19,092 at June 30, 2021 and 2020, respectively.

Treatment of cost of issuance of bonds and amortization of bond premiums and accretion of bond discounts:

In accordance with GASB Statement No. 65, *Items Previously Recorded as Assets and Liabilities*, the cost of issuance of bonds is being expensed in the period incurred. Any bond premiums and discounts are amortized or accreted over the terms of the bonds using the straight-line method and are recorded as an addition or deduction to interest expense. The Authority did not have any deferred outflows of resources or deferred inflows of resources as of June 30, 2021 and 2020.

Risk management:

The Authority is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; and natural disasters. When the guarantee agency was active, the Authority was allocated a proportionate share of the insurance expense paid by SCSLC. In addition, the Authority pays premiums to the State Insurance Reserve Fund, which accumulates assets to cover general tort claims.

South Carolina State Education Assistance Authority

Notes to Financial Statements

For the Years Ended June 30, 2021 and 2020

Note 1. Nature of Business and Significant Accounting Policies, Continued

Risk management, continued:

When the guaranty agency was active, premiums for worker's compensation, property insurance including capital assets, group life, fidelity bonds, and employee health insurance were paid to private insurance carriers and the Authority's coverage was subject to the limits of these policies. The expenses for these items were charged to the Authority by SCSLC and were paid out of the Agency Operating Fund. Settled claims have not exceeded this commercial coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.

Property and equipment:

Furniture and equipment costing over \$5,000 are capitalized at cost when purchased. Depreciation has been reported using the straight-line method over useful lives of three to ten years for furniture and equipment.

Operating and non-operating revenues/expenses:

Balances classified as operating revenues and expenses are those which comprise the Authority's principle ongoing operations. Since the Authority's operations are similar to those of any other finance company, all revenues and expenses are considered operating except investment income and bond interest expense.

Applying restricted or unrestricted resources:

The Authority's policy is to first apply restricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net positions are available.

Reclassifications:

Certain prior year amounts have been reclassified to conform to the current year presentation. There was no effect on net position as a result of these reclassifications.

Recently issued accounting pronouncements:

During May 2020, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board ("GASB") issued Statement No. 95, *Postponement of the Effective Dates of Certain Authoritative Guidance*. The primary objective of this Statement was to provide temporary relief to governments and other stakeholders in light of the Coronavirus Disease ("COVID-19") pandemic. That objective was accomplished by postponing the effective dates of certain provisions in Statements and Implementation Guides that first became effective or are scheduled to become effective for periods beginning after June 15, 2018 and later. The requirements of the following pronouncements will become effective for the Authority's subsequent reporting periods as follows:

- (1) Statement No. 87, *Leases* – Reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2021
- (2) Statement No. 91, *Conduit Debt Obligations* – Reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2021
- (3) Statement No. 92, *Omnibus 2020* - Reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2021
- (4) Statement No. 93, *Replacement of Interbank Offered Rates* - Reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2021

South Carolina State Education Assistance Authority

Notes to Financial Statements

For the Years Ended June 30, 2021 and 2020

Note 1. Nature of Business and Significant Accounting Policies, Continued

Recently issued accounting pronouncements, continued:

The Authority is currently evaluating the potential effects of the provisions of these Statements on its financial statements.

Subsequent events:

These financial statements have not been updated for subsequent events after October 1, 2021, the date these financial statements were available to be issued.

South Carolina State Education Assistance Authority

Notes to Financial Statements

For the Years Ended June 30, 2021 and 2020

Note 2. Deposits and Investments

All deposits and investments of the Authority are under the control of the State Treasurer who, by law, has sole authority for investing State funds. Certain Authority deposits and investments are deposited with the Bank of New York Mellon or Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. as authorized by the State Treasurer.

The following schedule reconciles deposits and investments within the footnotes to the amounts presented on the Statements of Net Position as of June 30:

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Statements of Net Position		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 31,945,194	\$ 30,499,010
Restricted assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	<u>73,983,529</u>	<u>73,200,141</u>
Total	<u>\$ 105,928,723</u>	<u>\$ 103,699,151</u>
Footnotes		
Cash at banks	\$ 11,946,895	\$ 11,499,439
Deposits - State cash management pool	194,214	260,981
Investments		
State cash management pool	<u>93,787,615</u>	<u>91,938,731</u>
Total	<u>\$ 105,928,724</u>	<u>\$ 103,699,151</u>

Deposits:

State law requires full collateralization of all State Treasury balances. The State Treasury must correct any deficiencies in collateral within seven days. At June 30, 2021 and 2020, all State Treasury bank balances were fully insured or collateralized with securities held by the State of South Carolina or by its agents in the State of South Carolina's name.

With respect to investments in the State's cash management pool, all of the State Treasury's investments are insured or are investments for which the securities are held by the State of South Carolina or its agents in the State of South Carolina's name. Information pertaining to the reported amounts, fair values, and credit risk of the State Treasury's investments is disclosed in the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of the State of South Carolina.

At June 30, 2021 and 2020, Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. carried a bank balance of \$2,754 and \$4,612, respectively, of unspent federal grants for the Authority. These accounts are covered by FDIC insurance and pledged securities.

At June 30, 2021 and 2020, the Bank of New York Mellon carried a bank balance of \$11,944,141 and \$11,494,827, respectively. These accounts are covered by FDIC insurance and pledged securities.

At June 30, 2021 and 2020, the State Treasurer's Office carried a bank balance at Bank of America on behalf of the Authority of \$216,888 and \$295,499, respectively. These accounts are covered by FDIC insurance and pledged securities.

South Carolina State Education Assistance Authority

Notes to Financial Statements

For the Years Ended June 30, 2021 and 2020

Note 2. Deposits and Investments, Continued

Deposits, continued:

All other deposits are in the State's cash management pool. The value of the Authority's investment in the State's cash management pool is determined based on the fair value of the State's cash management pool's underlying portfolio. The reported amount and fair value of deposits held for the various accounts of the Authority are as follows at June 30:

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Collection Fund	\$ 194,214	\$ 260,981

Investments:

The Authority categorizes its fair value measurements within the fair value hierarchy established by generally accepted accounting principles. The hierarchy is based on the valuation inputs used to measure the fair value of the asset. Level 1 inputs are quoted prices in active markets for identical assets; Level 2 inputs are significant other observable inputs; and Level 3 inputs are significant unobservable inputs.

As of June 30, 2021 and 2020, the Authority's recurring fair value measurements were held in the State's cash management pool totaling \$93,787,615 and \$91,938,731, respectively, and were valued using quoted market prices for similar items in an active market (Level 2 inputs). Investment income on investments is recorded when earned. Purchases and sales are accounted for on the trade date. If applicable, unrealized gains and losses on investments are recorded on the Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position. Realized gains and losses on securities transactions are recorded on the accrual basis of accounting.

Investments are restricted by bond indentures to direct obligations of (or obligations guaranteed by) the United States of America, interest bearing time deposits, certificates of deposit or repurchase agreements fully secured by direct obligations of the United States of America, and obligations of certain federal agencies and instrumentalities.

Interest rate risk:

In accordance with its investment policy, the Authority manages its exposure to declines in fair values by limiting the weighted average maturity of its investment portfolio to less than twelve months.

Credit risk:

The Authority adheres to the State of South Carolina's investment policy and invests in primarily U.S. government-backed obligations. The Authority does not make any investments in equities. The State's cash management pool has federal agency and corporate obligations.

South Carolina State Education Assistance Authority

Notes to Financial Statements

For the Years Ended June 30, 2021 and 2020

Note 2. Deposits and Investments, Continued

Concentration of credit risk:

The Authority's investment policy does not allow for an investment in any one issuer that is in excess of five percent of the total investments. All investments are made pursuant to S.C. Code Section 11-9-660 which requires all investments to be investment grade by at least two credit rating agencies.

Foreign currency risk:

The Authority has no foreign currency investments.

Custodial credit risk:

Custodial credit risk is the risk that the Authority will not be able to recover the value of investment or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party if the counter party to the investment transaction fails. The investments at Bank of New York Mellon are categorized to give an indication of the level of the custodial credit risk assumed by the Authority at June 30, 2021 and 2020. All Bank of New York Mellon investments are insured or registered by the Authority or its agent in the Authority's name. There are no uninsured investments.

Note 3. Federal Family Education Loans (FFEL) and Federal Reinsurance of FFEL Loans

During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021, these loans were bearing interest at fixed rates ranging from 2.875% to 9.0% or an annual variable rate of 4.23% to 5.5%. The annual variable rate is reset each July 1 using the bond equivalent rate of the 91-day or 52-week Treasury Bill, determined at the final auction held prior to the preceding June 1, plus 1.83% to 3.42% with a cap on the rate of 8.25% to 12.0%. These loans are repayable over a period of five to thirty years with a minimum payment of \$360 or \$600 per year, except for in the case of income-based repayment plans. Repayment of principal may be scheduled to begin within sixty days of final disbursement or six to ten months after the student graduates or ceases to be enrolled on at least a halftime basis in an eligible institution.

Certain borrowers may elect an income-based repayment plan, which can result in a payment amount less than is required to fully pay principal on the loan. After 25 years in the income-based repayment plan, any remaining debt is discharged.

The USDE insures loans against death or disability at 100% and default up to 100% for loans made prior to October 1, 1993; up to 98% for loans made on or after October 1, 1993, but on or before June 30, 2006; and 97% for loans made on or after July 1, 2006.

South Carolina State Education Assistance Authority

Notes to Financial Statements

For the Years Ended June 30, 2021 and 2020

Note 4. Receivables - Finance Loans

Each bond resolution of the Authority requires that all funds advanced to SCSLC by the Authority for the purpose of making student loans be evidenced by a loan agreement, assignment of collateral and assignment of revenues between the two parties, with the student loans providing security to the bond trustee. Increases (decreases) to SCSLC representing loan advances and loan payments from the Authority's 2009 PAL General Resolution are made pursuant to a loan agreement dated October 29, 2009, and further detailed on the Statements of Cash Flows of the financial statements. Each loan is calculated as set forth in the respective loan agreements. The finance loans as of June 30, 2021 and 2020, are as follows:

<u>Bond Resolution</u>	<u>Balance at June 30, 2019</u>	<u>Increases</u>	<u>Decreases</u>	<u>Balance at June 30, 2020</u>	<u>Increases</u>	<u>Decreases</u>	<u>Balance at June 30, 2021</u>
2009	\$ 26,681,810	\$ 1,834,279	\$ (8,916,192)	\$ 19,599,897	\$ 1,166,889	\$ (7,597,801)	\$ 13,168,985

Note 5. Amounts Due from/to SCSLC

The Authority owes SCSLC for funds collected on its behalf as well as services rendered on its behalf of \$481,716 and \$598,538 as of June 30, 2021 and 2020, respectively. Funds collected on behalf of SCSLC are required to be paid to SCSLC either daily or by the tenth of each month as required by the various bond documents. As of June 30, 2021 and 2020, SCSLC owes the Authority \$124,903 and \$211,061, respectively, for accrued interest on the 2009 PAL General Resolution bonds. During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2011, the Authority transferred unencumbered FFELP loans of the Authority in the amount of \$39,835,008 to SCSLC and SCSLC also contributed unencumbered loans of \$20,942,464 to provide additional equity to SCSLC's 2010 bond offering by increasing the parity of the bonds. The funds from both SCSLC and the Authority were provided through a Residual Trust Agreement which allows for all remaining loans of the Trust to be shared between SCSLC and the Authority on a pro-rata basis based on the percentage contribution made by each entity once all bonds have been redeemed.

Note 6. Property and Equipment

The following is a summary of changes in property and equipment for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2021 and 2020:

	<u>Balance at June 30, 2019</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Deletions</u>	<u>Balance at June 30, 2020</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Deletions</u>	<u>Balance at June 30, 2021</u>
Cost							
Furniture and equipment	\$ 634,360	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 634,360	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 634,360
Total	634,360	-	-	634,360	-	-	634,360
Accumulated depreciation							
Furniture and equipment	(634,360)	-	-	(634,360)	-	-	(634,360)
Less accumulated depreciation	(634,360)	-	-	(634,360)	-	-	(634,360)
Net, property and equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

South Carolina State Education Assistance Authority

Notes to Financial Statements

For the Years Ended June 30, 2021 and 2020

Note 7. Bonds, Other Payables and Restricted Assets

The Authority issues Guaranteed Student Loan Revenue Bonds or Education Loan Revenue Bonds as needed to make finance loans to SCSLC for the purpose of making student loans (See Note 4). The finance loans to SCSLC are secured by loans funded by bond proceeds, related revenue from such loans, related investments in accounts and earnings thereon. Loan proceeds from borrower payments are forwarded daily to the trustee to pay principal, interest and other bond related expenses when due. The bonds do not constitute a debt, liability or obligation of the State of South Carolina or a pledge of the faith and credit of the State of South Carolina. As of June 30, 2021 and 2020, the Authority was required to have assets deposited in the current debt service account of \$124,903 and \$211,061, respectively. The Authority has deposits in restricted assets equal to the current debt service requirement for the years ended June 30, 2021 and 2020. Restricted assets of \$73,983,529 and \$73,200,141 as of June 30, 2021 and 2020, respectively, include the current debt service reserve deposits of \$850,000.

On November 5, 2009, the Authority issued \$85,000,000 of fixed rate Student Loan Revenue bonds with maturity dates ranging from October 1, 2014 through October 1, 2029 and interest rates ranging from 3.4% to 5.1%. The Student Loan Revenue bonds including outstanding principal, original issuer's discount and net outstanding balance as of June 30, 2021 and 2020 were as follows:

Balance at June 30, 2019			Balance at June 30, 2020			Balance at June 30, 2021		
	Increases	Decreases		Increases	Decreases		Increases	Decreases
\$ 24,805,000	\$ -	\$ (7,790,000)	\$ 17,015,000	\$ -	\$ (6,990,000)	\$ 10,025,000		
(371,736)	-	61,956	(309,780)	-	61,956	(247,824)		
<u>\$ 24,433,264</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (7,728,044)</u>	<u>\$ 16,705,220</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (6,928,044)</u>	<u>\$ 9,777,176</u>		

The annual requirements to retire these bonds as of June 30, 2021 are as follows:

Fiscal Year ended June 30	Principal	Interest	Total
2022	\$ 870,000	\$ 486,153	\$ 1,356,153
2023	1,160,000	438,117	1,598,117
2024	-	410,478	410,478
2025	2,890,000	337,225	3,227,225
2026	-	263,971	263,971
2027 - 2030	5,105,000	923,899	6,028,899
Total	<u>\$ 10,025,000</u>	<u>\$ 2,859,843</u>	<u>\$ 12,884,843</u>

The Authority is currently utilizing its option to make bond redemption payments with excess revenues of finance loan payments from SCSLC. The Authority estimates that it will make optional redemption payments during the next fiscal year of approximately \$5,095,000.

South Carolina State Education Assistance Authority

Notes to Financial Statements

For the Years Ended June 30, 2021 and 2020

Note 7. Bonds, Other Payables and Restricted Assets, Continued

The Authority's 2009-1 Bonds outstanding of \$10,025,000 are limited obligations of the Authority secured by and payable solely from the 2009 Trust Estate. Events of default defined in the 2009 PAL General Resolution include (a) default by the Authority in the payment of any installment of interest on the bonds, principal installment, or redemption payment, when due, (b) failure or refusal of the Authority to comply with the provisions of the Higher Education Act or any other of the covenants, agreements, or conditions contained in the 2009 PAL General Resolution or 2009-1 Series Resolution, and (c) the occurrence of an event of insolvency for the Authority or the SCSLC, as defined in the 2009 PAL General Resolution.

Provisions in the 2009 PAL General Resolution require the Trustee, upon the written request of the registered owners of twenty-five percent or more in principal amount of outstanding bonds, to proceed to protect and enforce the rights of bondholders by remedies detailed in the 2009 PAL General Resolution. These remedies include declaring all bonds due and payable and selling all assets of the 2009 Trust Estate to pay bondholders.

Note 8. Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship Program

The Authority administers the Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship Program (formerly the Congressional Teacher Scholarship Program) which is serviced by SCSLC. This is a federally funded scholarship program designed to attract high school students and encourage them to enter the field of teaching. As of June 30, 1995, the federal government suspended the loan program and the Authority will reimburse all funds collected for the program.

During the fiscal years ended June 30, 2021 and 2020, collections were \$2,088 and \$3,344, respectively, from repayments by participants. The Authority forwarded these amounts to the federal government during the fiscal years ended June 30, 2021 and 2020, due to suspension of the program. Any repayments not forwarded to the federal government are recorded as a liability. During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021, all Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship Program loans administered by the Authority were fully discharged due to payments or write-offs of bad debt with the exception of one loan. This one loan was nominal in size, and therefore, SCSLC agreed to pay the remaining balance of the loan in an effort to assist the Authority in conducting its duty to administer this program. As of September 9, 2021, the Authority forwarded the final program payment to the federal government (see Note 13).

Note 9. Related Party Transactions

The Authority has significant transactions with the State of South Carolina and SCSLC. Services received at no cost from State agencies include maintenance of certain accounting records from the Comptroller General, investment and banking functions from the State Treasurer and legal services as requested from the Attorney General.

See Notes 1, 4 and 5 regarding transactions with SCSLC.

South Carolina State Education Assistance Authority

Notes to Financial Statements

For the Years Ended June 30, 2021 and 2020

Note 10. Rebate and Excess Earnings Liability

The Internal Revenue Code (“IRC”) and arbitrage regulations issued by the Internal Revenue Service require rebate to the federal government of excess investment earnings on bond proceeds if the yield on those earnings exceeds the effective yield on the related tax-exempt bonds issued. Regulations also exist for calculating rebate earnings in connection with the accounting for bond proceeds, refunding issues, and proceeds that are commingled with other funds for investment purposes. Rebates are payable every five years from date of bond issue or upon maturity of the bonds, whichever is earlier.

The IRC and U.S. Treasury Regulations permit issuers of qualified student loan tax-exempt obligations to earn no more than 1.5% to 2.0% above the bond yield on the qualified student loans financed with such tax-exempt obligations. For excess earnings on qualified student loans, issuers may elect to pay such excess to the U. S. Treasury or return such excess to the borrowers of qualified student loans financed by the tax-exempt obligations. The South Carolina State Treasurer had computations performed to determine the liability at June 30, 2021 and 2020. Based on those results, the Authority incurred no expense or income for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2021 and 2020. This expense (income) is determined using the “Future Value” method of determining the rebate and excess earnings liability, as set forth in the U.S. Treasury Regulations and is based on cash flows created by investment, sale, maturity of and earnings on gross bond proceeds. As of June 30, 2021 and 2020, the Authority reported no rebate and excess earnings liability.

Note 11. Contingencies

Lender-of-Last-Resort Program:

On September 8, 2009, in connection with its review of the process for determining whether borrowers qualify for a FFELP loan under the Lender-of- Last-Resort Program (the “LLR Program”) of the Authority established under the Higher Education Act and the Authority’s internal controls relating to the FFEL Program, the USDE made findings in a Final Program Review Determination (the “FPRD”) that (i) since 1993, the SCSLC made FFELP loans under the LLR Program (“LLR Loans”) without a request from the borrower to do so in violation of the Higher Education Act, (ii) since 1994, the SCSLC denied conventional FFELP loans to borrowers based solely on the fact that the borrowers had filed for bankruptcy, and on the basis of such denial, made LLR Loans to such borrowers in violation of the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1994 (the “Bankruptcy Act”) and guidance relating thereto issued by the USDE, and (iii) the SCSLC performed default aversion activities on behalf of the Authority in violation of the conflict of interest prohibitions contained in the Code of Federal Regulations promulgated under the Higher Education Act.

As a result of these findings, the USDE determined in the FPRD that the Authority (i) must update its policies and procedures relating to the LLR Program, reclassify all LLR Loans made since 1993, calculate the amount of overpaid reinsurance relating to such LLR Loans, and refund such overpayment to the USDE, (ii) must require the SCSLC to identify the specific loans designated as LLR Loans as a result of the SCSLC’s denial of a conventional loan because of a bankruptcy filing and reverse that designation, instruct the SCSLC to update its lending policies and procedures to comply with the Bankruptcy Act and associated guidance provided by the USDE, and (iii) must obtain an independent servicer, other than the SCSLC, to perform default aversion activities on its behalf or begin to perform those activities with its own employees.

South Carolina State Education Assistance Authority

Notes to Financial Statements

For the Years Ended June 30, 2021 and 2020

Note 11. Contingencies, Continued

Lender-of-Last-Resort Program, continued:

In the FPRD, the USDE has calculated that the amount to be paid as a result of the incorrect classification of loans as LLR Loans and the resulting overpayment of reinsurance on LLR Loans was approximately \$4.1 million plus interest of approximately \$654,000 by the Authority and approximately \$1 million by the SCSLC. As of June 30, 2010, the SCSLC recorded a liability of approximately \$1 million and the Authority recorded a liability of approximately \$4.8 million to recognize the potential exposure to these findings.

On October 23, 2009, the Authority appealed the first finding of the FPRD on the grounds that, among other things, the USDE's position was not supported by the statute and regulations on which it relied. On May 20, 2010, the USDE issued a ruling sustaining this finding of the FPRD.

On July 6, 2010, the Authority appealed the decision to the Secretary of Education. As of June 30, 2021, this appeal was still outstanding and remains pending with the USDE.

With respect to the second finding, the Authority provided additional information to the USDE via a letter dated January 16, 2010, which stated that the Authority caused the SCSLC to discontinue the challenged practice and calculated the total associated liability of the Authority and SCSLC to be approximately \$35,000. On February 22, 2010, the USDE informed the Authority that the calculation provided in the January 16, 2010, letter was acceptable, and on March 18, 2010, the SCSLC and Authority confirmed to the USDE that they had made the necessary payments to resolve the issue.

With respect to the third finding, on January 16, 2010, the Authority formally requested a meeting with the USDE to discuss alternatives for implementing changes to its default aversion activities that would be satisfactory to the USDE and least disruptive to the Authority. On February 22, 2010, the USDE informed the Authority that it would respond to this request at some point in the future. To date, no response has been received.

Coronavirus:

The 2019 novel coronavirus ("COVID-19") has adversely affected, and may continue to adversely affect economic activity globally, nationally and locally. It is unknown the extent to which COVID-19 may spread, may have a destabilizing effect on financial and economic activity and may increasingly have the potential to negatively impact the Authority's and its customers' costs, demand for the Authority's products and services, and the U.S. economy. These conditions could adversely affect the Authority's business, financial condition, and results of operations. Further, COVID-19 may result in health or other government authorities requiring the closure of the Authority's operations or other businesses of the Authority's customers and suppliers, which could significantly disrupt the Authority's operations and the operations of the Authority's customers. The extent of the adverse impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on the Authority cannot be predicted at this time.

South Carolina State Education Assistance Authority

Notes to Financial Statements

For the Years Ended June 30, 2021 and 2020

Note 12. Required Information on Business-Type Activity for the State of South Carolina

The Authority is a discretely presented component unit of the State of South Carolina and is not required to present government-wide financial statements. However, the State of South Carolina requires business-type activities for its government-wide Statement of Activities. The required information was as follows for the fiscal years ended June 30:

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Charges for services:		
Income from South Carolina Student Loan Corporation:		
Subsidized interest	\$ 29,620	\$ 39,890
Special allowance	(484,793)	(353,854)
Non-subsidized interest	756,832	843,727
Late charges	712	8,151
Miscellaneous payments of student loans	30	85
Reimbursement of bond expense	<u>978,799</u>	<u>1,270,881</u>
Total charges for services	<u>1,281,200</u>	<u>1,808,880</u>
General revenue:		
Investment income	<u>1,871,837</u>	<u>2,087,181</u>
Total general revenue	<u>1,871,837</u>	<u>2,087,181</u>
Total program revenues	3,153,037	3,896,061
Less expenses	<u>1,375,737</u>	<u>1,841,995</u>
Change in net position	1,777,300	2,054,066
Net position		
Beginning	<u>154,429,043</u>	<u>152,374,977</u>
Ending	<u>\$ 156,206,343</u>	<u>\$ 154,429,043</u>

Note 13. Subsequent Events

As stated in Note 8, the Authority administers the federal Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship Program. This program ended in 1995 and all proceeds collected for the program are required to be sent to the federal government. During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019, the Authority discharged \$55,948 in both principal and interest of bad debt loans related to the Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship Program. After this discharge, only a few loans remained active as part of this program. During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021, all but one loan was paid in full. In an effort to assist the Authority is relinquishing its administrative role for the program with only one loan with a small balance remaining, SCSLC agreed to pay the remaining loan's balance in full. On September 7, 2021, SCSLC paid the Authority \$3,365 to discharge the remaining Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship loan. On September 9, 2021, the Authority forwarded the last payment of the program collections to the federal government, thereby fulfilling its obligation for the program.

South Carolina State Education Assistance Authority

Schedule of Net Position by Fund

As of June 30, 2021

	Collection/ Prior Unpledged Fund	2009 PAL Resolution Fund	Eligible Lender Trust Fund	Agency Operating Fund	Total
Assets					
Current assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,477,248	\$ -	\$ 30,467,946	\$ -	\$ 31,945,194
Cash and cash equivalents - restricted	-	3,706,893	-	70,276,636	73,983,529
Receivables:					
Current portion of student loans	-	-	1,426,627	-	1,426,627
Current portion of finance loans	-	4,045,047	-	-	4,045,047
Interest due from borrower	-	-	577,005	-	577,005
Due from South Carolina Student Loan Corporation	-	125,535	-	-	125,535
Due from servicers	-	63,602	7,290	-	70,892
Prepays	-	2,000	-	-	2,000
Total current assets	<u>1,477,248</u>	<u>7,943,077</u>	<u>32,478,868</u>	<u>70,276,636</u>	<u>112,175,829</u>
Long-term assets					
Receivables:					
Student loans, less current portion and net of allowance for loan loss of \$21,152	-	-	10,441,945	-	10,441,945
Finance loans, less current portion	-	9,123,938	-	-	9,123,938
Due from South Carolina Student Loan Corporation	-	-	39,835,008	-	39,835,008
Total long-term assets	<u>-</u>	<u>9,123,938</u>	<u>50,276,953</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>59,400,891</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 1,477,248</u>	<u>\$ 17,067,015</u>	<u>\$ 82,755,821</u>	<u>\$ 70,276,636</u>	<u>\$ 171,576,720</u>

South Carolina State Education Assistance Authority

Schedule of Net Position by Fund

As of June 30, 2021

	Collection/ Prior Unpledged Fund	2009 PAL Resolution Fund	Eligible Lender Trust Fund	Agency Operating Fund	Total
Liabilities					
<i>Current Liabilities</i>					
Accounts payable	\$ -	\$ 8,630	\$ -	\$ 15,004	\$ 23,634
Due to South Carolina Student Loan Corporation	194,158	265,357	6,898	15,303	481,716
Due to United States Department of Education	-	25,256	123,571	-	148,827
Unearned revenues	5,399	-	-	-	5,399
Payable from restricted assets:					
Current portion of bonds payable	-	5,964,990	-	-	5,964,990
Accrued bond interest payable	-	124,903	-	-	124,903
Total current liabilities	<u>199,557</u>	<u>6,389,136</u>	<u>130,469</u>	<u>30,307</u>	<u>6,749,469</u>
<i>Long-term liabilities</i>					
Due to United States Department of Education	-	-	-	4,808,722	4,808,722
Bonds payable, less current maturities	-	3,812,186	-	-	3,812,186
Total long-term liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>3,812,186</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,808,722</u>	<u>8,620,908</u>
Total liabilities	<u>\$ 199,557</u>	<u>\$ 10,201,322</u>	<u>\$ 130,469</u>	<u>\$ 4,839,029</u>	<u>\$ 15,370,377</u>
Net Position					
Restricted for:					
Debt service					
Bond indentures - 2009 resolution	\$ -	\$ 6,865,693	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,865,693
Other					
Guaranty agency operating account	-	-	-	65,437,607	65,437,607
Unrestricted	1,277,691	-	82,625,352	-	83,903,043
Total net position	<u>\$ 1,277,691</u>	<u>\$ 6,865,693</u>	<u>\$ 82,625,352</u>	<u>\$ 65,437,607</u>	<u>\$ 156,206,343</u>

South Carolina State Education Assistance Authority
Schedule of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position by Fund
For the year ended June 30, 2021

	Collection/ Prior Unpledged Fund	2009 PAL Resolution Fund	Eligible Lender Trust Fund	Agency Operating Fund	Total
Operating revenues					
Income from South Carolina Student Loan Corporation:					
Subsidized interest	\$ -	\$ -	29,620	\$ -	\$ 29,620
Special allowance	-	-	(484,793)	-	(484,793)
Non-subsidized interest	-	-	756,832	-	756,832
Late charges	-	-	712	-	712
Miscellaneous payments of student loans	-	-	30	-	30
Reimbursement of bond expense	-	978,799	-	-	978,799
Total operating revenues	-	978,799	302,401	-	1,281,200
Operating expenses					
Contractual services	-	-	-	38,297	38,297
General operating	626	-	-	-	626
South Carolina Student Loan Corporation for operating costs	-	222,461	85,932	-	308,393
Loan fees	-	91,869	135,633	-	227,502
Borrower incentives	-	-	63,995	-	63,995
Broker/dealer fees	-	8,800	2,500	-	11,300
Reinsurance expense	-	-	951	-	951
Loan loss adjustments	-	-	2,059	-	2,059
Total operating expenses	626	323,130	291,070	38,297	653,123
Operating income (loss)	(626)	655,669	11,331	(38,297)	628,077
Non-operating income (expense)					
Investment income	-	-	446,073	1,425,764	1,871,837
Bond interest expense	-	(722,614)	-	-	(722,614)
Total non-operating income (expense)	-	(722,614)	446,073	1,425,764	1,149,223
Change in net position	(626)	(66,945)	457,404	1,387,467	1,777,300
Net position					
Beginning of year	1,278,317	6,932,638	82,167,948	64,050,140	154,429,043
End of year	\$ 1,277,691	\$ 6,865,693	\$ 82,625,352	\$ 65,437,607	\$ 156,206,343

South Carolina State Education Assistance Authority

Schedule of Cash Flows by Fund

For the year ended June 30, 2021

	Collection/ Prior Unpledged Fund	2009 PAL Resolution Fund	Eligible Lender Trust Fund	Agency Operating Fund	Total
<i>Cash flows from operating activities</i>					
Receipts from South Carolina Student Loan services provided	\$ -	\$ 1,075,029	\$ 1,360,205	\$ -	\$ 2,435,234
Payments to suppliers, lenders and borrowers	(68,625)	(388,011)	(291,469)	(23,490)	(771,595)
Net cash provided by (used for) operating activities	<u>(68,625)</u>	<u>687,018</u>	<u>1,068,736</u>	<u>(23,490)</u>	<u>1,663,639</u>
<i>Cash flows from non-capital financing activities</i>					
Finance loan payments received from South Carolina Student Loan Corporation for student loans	-	6,430,912	-	-	6,430,912
Payments on bonds payable	-	(6,990,000)	-	-	(6,990,000)
Interest paid on revenue bonds	-	(746,816)	-	-	(746,816)
Net cash used for non-capital financing activities	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,305,904)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,305,904)</u>
<i>Cash flows from investing activities</i>					
Interest received on investment securities	-	-	446,073	1,425,764	1,871,837
Net cash provided by investing activities	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>446,073</u>	<u>1,425,764</u>	<u>1,871,837</u>
<i>Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</i>	(68,625)	(618,886)	1,514,809	1,402,274	2,229,572
<i>Cash and cash equivalents</i>					
Beginning of year	1,545,873	4,325,779	28,953,137	68,874,362	103,699,151
End of year	<u>\$ 1,477,248</u>	<u>\$ 3,706,893</u>	<u>\$ 30,467,946</u>	<u>\$ 70,276,636</u>	<u>\$ 105,928,723</u>

South Carolina State Education Assistance Authority

Schedule of Cash Flows by Fund

For the year ended June 30, 2021

	Collection/ Prior Unpledged Fund	2009 PAL Resolution Fund	Eligible Lender Trust Fund	Agency Operating Fund	Total
Reconciliation of operating income (loss) to net cash provided by (used for) operating activities					
Operating income (loss)	\$ (626)	\$ 655,669	\$ 11,331	\$ (38,297)	\$ 628,077
Adjustments to reconcile operating income (loss) to net cash provided by (used for) operating activities:					
Loan loss adjustments	-	-	2,060	-	2,060
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:					
Student loans receivable	-	-	983,080	-	983,080
Interest due from borrower	-	-	77,160	-	77,160
Due from South Carolina Student Loan Corporation	-	85,607	-	-	85,607
Due from servicers	-	10,623	(4,496)	-	6,127
Accounts payable	-	-	-	(496)	(496)
Due to United States Department of Education	-	454	169	-	623
Customer refunds payable	(545)	-	-	-	(545)
Unearned revenues	(1,232)	-	-	-	(1,232)
Due to South Carolina Student Loan Corporation	(66,222)	(65,335)	(568)	15,303	(116,822)
Net cash provided by (used for) operating activities	<u>\$ (68,625)</u>	<u>\$ 687,018</u>	<u>\$ 1,068,736</u>	<u>\$ (23,490)</u>	<u>\$ 1,663,639</u>

South Carolina State Education Assistance Authority

Schedule of Organizational Data

For the Years Ended June 30, 2021 and 2020

CREATION

Created by Act No. 433 of the Acts and Joint Resolutions of the General Assembly for the year 1971, now codified as Chapter 115, Title 59 of the 1976 Code (the "Act"). The Constitutionality of the Act was sustained in Durham vs. McLeod, 259 S.C. 409, 192 E. 2d 202, appeal dismissed 413 U.S. 902.

To make, insure and guarantee student loans; to acquire contingent interest in student loans from eligible banks or other lending institutions (up to 100% of the face amount thereof); to develop and administer all programs and to perform all functions necessary or convenient to promote and facilitate the making, guaranteeing and insuring of student loans and to provide such other student loan assistance and services as the Authority shall deem necessary or desirable and to enable it to qualify for loans, grants, insurance and other benefits and assistance under any program of the United States now or hereafter authorized fostering student loans; to appoint one or more banking institutions as its fiscal agent to perform such functions with respect to student loans and its revenue bonds; to approve as eligible, institutions otherwise qualified as such.

MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office Held</u>
Henry D. McMaster	Governor of South Carolina
Curtis M. Loftis, Jr.	State Treasurer of South Carolina
Richard Eckstrom	Comptroller General of South Carolina
Hugh K. Leatherman, Sr.	Chairman, South Carolina Senate Finance Committee
G. Murrell Smith	Chairman, South Carolina House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee

**Independent Auditor’s Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting
and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements
Performed in Accordance With *Government Auditing Standards***

Mr. George L. Kennedy, III, CPA
State Auditor
South Carolina Office of the State Auditor
Columbia, South Carolina

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of South Carolina State Education Assistance Authority (the “Authority”), a component unit of the State of South Carolina, as of and for the years ended June 30, 2021 and 2020, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Authority’s basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated October 1, 2021.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the 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 Authority’s internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the 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 for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. 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 Authority's financial statements are free from 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elliott Davis, LLC". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Columbia, South Carolina

October 1, 2021

South Carolina State Education Assistance Authority

Schedule of Findings and Responses

For the Year Ended June 30, 2021

Section I. Summary of Auditor's Results

Financial Statements

Type of auditor's report issued:

Unmodified

Internal control over financial reporting:

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| • Material weakness(es) identified? | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No |
| • Significant deficiency(ies) identified? | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | None reported |

Noncompliance material to financial statements noted?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No
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Section II. Financial Statement Findings

None reported