# CollegeInvest College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Financial Statements and Independent Auditor's Reports
Financial Audit
Years Ended June 30, 2023 and 2022
Compliance Audit
Year Ended June 30, 2023



# LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE

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Representative Andrew Boesenecker Representative Vacant as of Report Publication Date

Representative Gabe Evans Senator Rod Pelton

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# OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

Kerri L. Hunter, CPA, CFE State Auditor

Marisa Edwards, CPA Deputy State Auditor

Stephen Donohoue Contract Monitor

Eide Bailly, LLP Contractor





Board Members of CollegeInvest & Legislative Audit Committee:

We have completed the financial statement audits of CollegeInvest College Savings Program Funds for the years ended June 30, 2023 and 2022 and Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund for the year ended June 30, 2023. Our audits were conducted 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.

We were engaged to conduct our audits pursuant to Section 2-3-103, C.R.S., which authorizes the State Auditor to conduct or cause to be conducted audits of all departments, institutions and agencies of State government. The reports which we have issued as a result of this engagement are set forth in the table of contents which follows.

December 8, 2023

Ede Sailly LLP



# College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

June 30, 2023 and 2022

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# College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

**Years Ended June 30, 2023 and 2022** 

### REPORT SUMMARY

### **Purposes and Scope**

The Office of the State Auditor, State of Colorado, engaged Eide Bailly, LLP to conduct the financial and compliance audit of CollegeInvest (a division of the Department of Higher Education, State of Colorado) College Savings Program Funds and Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund as of and for the years ended June 30, 2023 and 2022. Eide Bailly, LLP performed these 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.

The purposes and scope of our audits were to (i) express opinions on each fiduciary fund of CollegeInvest College Savings Program Funds and Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund as of and for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2023 and 2022 and (ii) issue a report on CollegeInvest College Savings Program Funds' and Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund's internal control over financial reporting and on compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters based on our audits of the financial statements performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* for the year ended June 30, 2023.

## **Audit Opinions and Reports**

We expressed unmodified opinions on each fiduciary fund of CollegeInvest College Savings Program Funds and Colorado Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund as of and for the years ended June 30, 2023 and 2022.

### **Summary of Key Findings and Recommendations**

There were no findings for the year ended June 30, 2023.

# **Summary of Progress in Implementing Prior Year Audit Recommendations**

There were no findings for the year ended June 30, 2022.

# College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Years Ended June 30, 2023 and 2022

# DESCRIPTION OF COLLEGEINVEST COLLEGE SAVINGS PROGRAM FUNDS & ACHIEVING A BETTER LIFE EXPERIENCE PROGRAM FUND

### **Organization**

The Colorado General Assembly, pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes 23-3.1-201, et seq. and 23-3.1-301, et seq., established a student obligation bond program (Student Loan Program Funds, which consist of the Borrower Benefit Fund and Bond Fund), an Internal Revenue Code Section 529 college savings program (Scholars Choice College Savings Program "Scholars Choice Fund," Direct Portfolio College Savings Plan "Direct Portfolio Fund," Smart Choice College Savings Plan "Smart Choice Fund," and Stable Value Plus College Savings Plan "Stable Vale Plus Fund," collectively referred to as the College Savings Program Funds), and an Internal Revenue Code Section 529A Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund (Colorado ABLE "ABLE"), which are administered by CollegeInvest. The Bond Fund was closed in fiscal year 2022. The College Savings Program assists students in meeting the expenses incurred in availing themselves of higher education opportunities. The ABLE savings program helps individuals with disabilities save money while preserving their Supplemental Security Income and Medicaid benefits. This report only includes the financial statements of the College Savings Program Funds and ABLE. Information on the Student Loan Program Funds can be found in the State of Colorado Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. The Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Higher Education has responsibility for oversight and management of CollegeInvest and appoints the Director of CollegeInvest. In addition, CollegeInvest has a nine-person Advisory Board of Directors (Board) appointed by the Governor with the consent of the State Senate to serve four-year terms.

The College Savings Program Funds were established to provide families with an opportunity to save for future college education expenses. The Funds provide an opportunity to invest on a tax-favored basis toward the "qualified higher education expenses" of a designated beneficiary (the Student) associated with attending an institution of higher education. These institutions include most community colleges; public and private four-year colleges, universities, graduate and post-graduate programs; and certain proprietary and vocational schools throughout the United States. "Qualified higher education expenses" include tuition, fees, books, supplies, and equipment required for the enrollment or attendance of a student at an eligible institution of higher education plus, subject to certain limitations, room and board expenses for a student attending such an institution on at least a half-time basis.

# College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Years Ended June 30, 2023 and 2022

# DESCRIPTION OF COLLEGEINVEST COLLEGE SAVINGS PROGRAM FUNDS & ACHIEVING A BETTER LIFE EXPERIENCE PROGRAM (continued)

The College Savings Program Funds consist of four funds with various options to meet the savings needs of participants. The individual funds and available options are described throughout these financial statements and in greater detail in the notes to the financial statements.

ABLE was established to allow eligible individuals the ability to save for qualified disability expenses in a tax-advantaged way, without jeopardizing eligibility for federal means-tested benefits. "Qualified expenses" include education, health and wellness, housing, transportation, legal fees, financial management, employment training and support, assistive technology, personal support services, oversight and monitoring, and funeral and burial expenses. The Colorado ABLE Trust fund consists of one fund with various options to meet the savings needs of participants. The individual fund and available options are described throughout these financial statements and in greater detail in the notes to the financial statements.

The Colorado Constitution and other State laws prohibit the State from providing its full faith and credit to obligations of other entities, such as the College Savings Program Funds and ABLE. As a result, payments from the College Savings Program Funds and ABLE are not guaranteed in any way by the State and are not considered to have created a debt or obligation of the State. Such payments are limited obligations, payable from each College Savings Program Fund and ABLE, but not from the other assets of CollegeInvest.



#### **Independent Auditor's Report**

Members of the Board of Directors and Legislative Audit Committee:

#### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of CollegeInvest (a division of the Department of Higher Education, State of Colorado) which are comprised of the College Savings Program Funds as of and for the years ended June 30, 2023 and 2022 and Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, (collectively "CollegeInvest"), and the related notes to the financial statements, which comprise CollegeInvest's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective fiduciary net position of CollegeInvest as of June 30, 2023, and 2022, and the respective changes in fiduciary net position for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of CollegeInvest and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

#### Relationship with the State of Colorado

As discussed in Note 1 – Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies, the financial statements of CollegeInvest are intended to present the fiduciary net position, and the changes in fiduciary net position, for only that portion of the financial reporting entity, State of Colorado, that is attributable to the transactions of the CollegeInvest College Savings Program Funds. They do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the fiduciary net position of the State of Colorado as of June 30, 2023 and 2022, and the changes in its fiduciary net position, or where applicable, its cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

#### **Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; and for 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.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about CollegeInvest's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

#### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and Government Auditing Standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due
  to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such
  procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures
  in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 CollegeInvest's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is
  expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant
  accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the
  financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about CollegeInvest's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control—related matters that we identified during the audit.

#### **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, which 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 December 8, 2023, on our consideration of CollegeInvest'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 solely 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 the effectiveness of CollegeInvest's 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 CollegeInvest's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Denver, Colorado December 8, 2023

Esde Saelly LLP

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# College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Management's Discussion and Analysis (Unaudited)

June 30, 2023 and 2022

This section of the College Savings Program Funds' financial statements is a discussion and analysis of the financial performance of the Funds for the years ended June 30, 2023, 2022, and 2021, prepared by management. The Funds are Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 529 college savings program administered by CollegeInvest. The Scholars Choice, Direct Portfolio, Stable Value Plus, and Smart Choice Funds are plans within the Section 529 College Savings Program of CollegeInvest.

This section also includes the discussion and analysis of the Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund's financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2023, prepared by management. The Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 529A Achieving a Better Life Experience Program is administered by CollegeInvest. The CollegeInvest Achieving a Better Life Experience Program was formed in 2017 and is referred to as Colorado ABLE (ABLE). CollegeInvest exited an Interstate Consortium agreement related to the ABLE Program in June 2023 and established its own Colorado ABLE Trust fund.

College Invest, is a division of the Department of Higher Education of the State of Colorado. The College Savings Program Funds' and ABLE Program Fund are presented as fiduciary activities (specifically, private-purpose trust funds) in the State of Colorado's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. Management is responsible for these financial statements, footnotes, and this discussion. The management's discussion and analysis should be read in conjunction with the College Savings Program Funds' and ABLE Program Fund's financial statements.

### **Overview of the Financial Statements:**

This annual report contains two sections – management's discussion and analysis (this section) and the basic financial statements. The basic financial statements include the Statements of Fiduciary Net Position, the Statements of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position, and the Notes to Financial Statements. The Notes to Financial Statements present additional information to support the financial statements and are commonly referred to as "Notes." Their purpose is to clarify and expand on the information in the financial statements.

The Statements of Fiduciary Net Position present information on all of the Funds' assets and liabilities, with the difference between the two reported as fiduciary net position, held in trust. Over time, increases or decreases in the fiduciary net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial results of the Funds are improving or deteriorating.

# College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

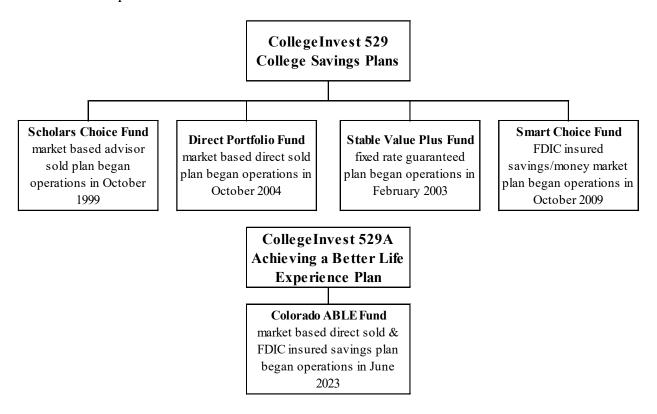
Management's Discussion and Analysis (Unaudited)
June 30, 2023 and 2022

### **Overview of the Financial Statements (continued):**

The Statements of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position present information that reflects how the Funds' fiduciary net position changed during the past year. All changes in the net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of the related cash flows. Thus, additions to and deductions from fiduciary net position are reported in the statements for some items that will only result in cash flows in future fiscal periods.

### **Analysis of Financial Activities:**

CollegeInvest's Board of Directors (BOD) approves the annual budget and the investment policies of the Funds. Inception of the Funds is as follows:



# College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Management's Discussion and Analysis (Unaudited)

June 30, 2023 and 2022

### **Analysis of Financial Activities (continued):**

#### Scholars Choice Fund:

CollegeInvest has an agreement with TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc. (TFI) to manage the advisor sold accounts of the Scholars Choice Fund (SCF). The TFI contract is a ten-year contract expiring on July 19, 2031, subject to possible extension. TFI is responsible for investment advisory, asset allocation, recordkeeping, reporting and other services for the SCF. Nuveen Securities, LLC, is a wholly owned subsidiary of TFI, and is responsible for the marketing and distribution of the SCF.

During fiscal year 2021, CollegeInvest gave notice of termination of the Services Agreement between CollegeInvest and QS Investors, LLC ("QS") and Legg Mason Investor Services, LLC ("LMIS"), and contracted with TFI to serve as the successor manager for the SCF. QS and LMIS remained as managers through fiscal year 2021. The transfer of SCF assets, records and management responsibilities to TFI was completed on July 19, 2021.

CollegeInvest acts as trustee to the SCF, and TIAA holds the assets of the SCF in a segregated custody account. Assets of the SCF are held "in trust" for the exclusive benefit of account owners and beneficiaries. The SCF offers 10 enrollment year investment portfolios and 18 other investment portfolios, including 4 target allocation portfolios and 14 individual fund portfolios in which participants may invest. Each investment portfolio is comprised of one or more of the 25 underlying funds within the SCF. The investment return for the SCF is based on the market performance of underlying investments. These investment options are designed to help meet diverse investment goals of investors.

### Direct Portfolio Fund:

CollegeInvest has an agreement in place with Ascensus College Savings Recordkeeping Services, LLC (Ascensus) and The Vanguard Group, Inc. (Managers) to provide administrative and record-keeping duties to the Direct Portfolio Fund (DPF). The contract expires on December 31, 2024, subject to possible extension.

CollegeInvest acts as trustee to the DPF, and the Managers hold the assets of the DPF in a segregated custody account. Assets of the DPF are held "in trust" for the exclusive benefit of account owners and beneficiaries. The investment return for DPF is based on the market performance of investments. DPF offers 11 investment options, including three age-based options and eight blended and individual portfolios, in which participants may invest. Each investment option is comprised of one or more of the 14 portfolios within DPF. These investment options are designed to help meet diverse investment goals of investors.

# College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Management's Discussion and Analysis (Unaudited)

June 30, 2023 and 2022

### **Analysis of Financial Activities (continued):**

#### Stable Value Plus Fund:

CollegeInvest administers the Stable Value Plus Fund (SVP). In October 2019, CollegeInvest partnered with Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company (Nationwide) to offer a Deferred Fixed Annuity Contract (Nationwide Contract) for the SVP. The contract provides a guarantee on the principal and earnings of the SVP. The contract expires on June 30, 2029, subject to possible extension.

CollegeInvest had prior servicing and funding agreements with Brighthouse Insurance Company (Brighthouse), a wholly owned subsidiary of MetLife, Inc., to provide a guarantee on the principal and earnings of SVP. CollegeInvest provided notice of discontinuance of the service agreement (Brighthouse Agreement) in October 2019. Per the Brighthouse funding agreement, the funds held at Brighthouse were transferred in four equal installments to Nationwide over a three year and 60-day period. The last transfer occured on December 23, 2022 when both agreements terminated.

The SVP offers an investment return based on an interest rate that is set annually by Nationwide on January 1. The Brighthouse interest rate was set at 2% (1.29% after administrative fee) for the three year and 60-day period. Under the Nationwide contract the minimum investment return on accounts in the SVP could be as low as 0.51%, which is the minimum annual rate of 1.50% less the maximum CollegeInvest administrative fee of 0.99%. The rate, net of CollegeInvest's administrative fee of 0.71%, has been as follows:

Date	Nationwide Rate	Net Rate
January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021	2.80%	2.09%
January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022	2.50%	1.79%
January 1, 2023 – June 30, 2023	2.50%	1.79%

# College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Management's Discussion and Analysis (Unaudited)

June 30, 2023 and 2022

### **Analysis of Financial Activities (continued):**

#### Smart Choice Fund:

CollegeInvest has an agreement in place with FirstBank Holding Company (FirstBank), a Colorado banking company, to offer a college savings option called the Smart Choice College Savings Plan (SCCS). CollegeInvest acts as trustee for the plan and FirstBank provides administrative and record-keeping duties. The plan is offered to provide an additional tax-advantaged savings vehicle for participants to utilize in saving for post-secondary education by providing the benefits of a 529 plan along with the stability and security of an FDIC insured bank. The product offerings through the SCCS are a One-Year Time Savings Account and a Money Market Savings Account. The agreement expires September 30, 2029, subject to possible extension.

The interest rate paid on amounts deposited into the money market savings account and the one-year time savings account will be established by FirstBank. However, the rates for each type of account must not be less than 0.10% of the interest rate publicly offered directly by FirstBank on similar money market and savings accounts. The rates are variable and are published daily by FirstBank on their website. The interest rate will be calculated, and may be adjusted if needed, every Wednesday and on the first day of each month, and is net of all administrative and other charges of FirstBank. The average interest rate paid during fiscal years 2023, 2022, and 2021 was 0.07%.

### Colorado ABLE:

The ABLE Program began in August 2017. CollegeInvest formed Colorado ABLE and was responsible for promoting the ABLE Program. CollegeInvest entered into an ABLE Interstate Agreement establishing an ABLE Consortium Advisory Committee with the Office of the Illinois State Treasurer as the facilitating state. The Office of the Illinois State Treasurer entered an agreement with Ascensus College Savings Recordkeeping Services, LLC to perform investment management, administrative services, customer service, and outreach material support for all members of the Consortium. CollegeInvest exited the Interstate Consortium agreement in June 2023 and established its own Colorado ABLE Trust fund. The Colorado assets were converted from the Consortium to the Colorado ABLE Trust fund on June 16, 2023.

# College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Management's Discussion and Analysis (Unaudited)

June 30, 2023 and 2022

### **Analysis of Financial Activities (continued):**

#### Colorado ABLE (continued):

In June 2023, CollegeInvest entered an agreement with Ascensus College Savings Recordkeeping Services, LLC and Ascensus Investment Advisors, LLC (the Contractors) to provide administrative and recordkeeping duties, and investment management for the ABLE Program. The plan is offered to provide an additional tax-advantaged savings vehicle for participants to utilize in saving for qualified disability expenses without jeopardizing their federal means-tested benefits by providing the benefits of a 529A plan along with the stability and security of an FDIC insured bank. The agreement expires May 30, 2032, subject to possible extension.

CollegeInvest acts as trustee to ABLE, and the Contractors hold the assets of the ABLE in a segregated custody account. Assets of the ABLE are held "in trust" for the exclusive benefit of account owners and beneficiaries. ABLE offers six target risk investment portfolios and an FDIC insured checking account option. The investment return for the ABLE is based on the market performance of underlying investments. These investment options are designed to help meet diverse investment goals of investors.

### **Comparison of Current Year Results to Prior Year:**

### **College Savings Program:**

Condensed Statements of Fiduciary Net Position as of June 30:

	 2023		2022	_	2021
	(dollar amo	ounts	expressed in t	hous	ands)
Cash and investments	\$ 11,018,260	\$	10,172,617	\$	11,386,125
Receivables and other	 24,017	_	20,579	_	41,324
Total fiduciary assets	11,042,277		10,193,196		11,427,449
Total liabilities	 35,332		33,784		52,420
Total fiduciary net position, held in trust	\$ 11,006,945	\$	10,159,412	\$	11,375,029

Combined cash and investments of the College Savings Program increased by \$846.0 million, or 8.3%, from June 30, 2022 to June 30, 2023 due primarily to investment gain of \$931.9 million and administrative expenses of \$39.0 million offset by net contributions (participant contributions less benefits paid to participants and withdrawals) of (\$46.4) million.

# College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Management's Discussion and Analysis (Unaudited)

June 30, 2023 and 2022

### **Comparison of Current Year Results to Prior Year (continued):**

### **College Savings Program (continued):**

As compared to the prior year, combined cash and investments of the College Savings Program decreased by \$1.2 billion, or 10.7%, from June 30, 2021, to June 30, 2022, due primarily to investment loss of \$1.4 billion and administrative expenses of \$41.4 million offset by net contributions (participant contributions less benefits paid to participants and withdrawals) of \$177.3 million.

Receivables consist primarily of receivables for investments sold, dividends and interest receivable, and due from Student Loan Program Funds. Receivables increased by \$3.4 million in 2023, decreased by \$20.7 million in 2022 and increased by \$12.5 million in 2021. The fluctuation in years is primarily due to the timing and amount of fund shares sold, receivables for investments sold, and dividends and interest receivable. The year-to-year changes reflect investment decisions made by the participants and the corresponding action taken by the plan manager to process the required transactions.

Liabilities consists of amounts payable for underlying fund investments purchased, payables for withdrawals approved but not yet paid, service and administrative fees payable, unearned revenue, and due to participants. Total liabilities increased by \$1.5 million in fiscal year 2023, decreased \$18.6 million in 2022 and increased \$11.6 million in 2021. The decrease in the liabilities is due to timing and amount of the payables for underlying fund investments purchased and payables for withdrawals approved but not yet paid in the SCF and DPF. The year-to-year changes reflect investment decisions made by the participants and the corresponding action taken by the plan manager to process the required transactions.

# College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Management's Discussion and Analysis (Unaudited)
June 30, 2023 and 2022

### **Comparison of Current Year Results to Prior Year (continued):**

### **College Savings Program (continued):**

Condensed Statements of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position for the Years Ended June 30:

	_	2023	. <u>.</u>	2022		2021		
		(dollar amounts expressed in thousands)						
Net investment income (loss)	\$	931,936	\$	(1,350,454)	\$	1,882,858		
Participant contributions		1,088,748		1,276,064		1,152,699		
Fees	_	-		1,356		1,315		
Total additions	_	2,020,684	_	(73,034)	_	3,036,872		
Benefits paid to participants and withdrawals		1,135,167		1,098,759		933,664		
Administrative, marketing and service fee expense	_	38,956	_	41,356		33,769		
Total deductions	_	1,174,123	_	1,140,115	_	967,433		
Change in fiduciary net position before transfers		846,561		(1,213,149)		2,069,439		
Transfers and change in due to participants	_	972	_	(2,468)	_	(1,910)		
Change in net position		847,533		(1,215,617)		2,067,529		
Fiduciary net position, beginning of year	_	10,159,412	_	11,375,029	_	9,307,500		
Fiduciary net position, end of year	\$_	11,006,945	\$_	10,159,412	\$_	11,375,029		

Net investment earnings (losses) are comprised of dividends, interest earnings, net realized and unrealized gains and losses from security transactions less investment fees. Net investment earnings were \$932 million, (\$1.4) billion and \$1.9 billion for the years ended June 30, 2023, 2022 and 2021, respectively. The significant swings in the 2023 and 2022 investment earnings are due to market conditions. The significant increase in 2021 investment earnings was due to record fiscal and monetary stimulus which led to a strong equity market recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Investment returns are also dependent on individual investor behavior and the timing of benefits paid to participants as funds are utilized to pay for college or for withdrawals.

# College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Management's Discussion and Analysis (Unaudited)

June 30, 2023 and 2022

### **Comparison of Current Year Results to Prior Year (continued):**

### **College Savings Program (continued):**

The College Savings Program participant contributions, net of benefits paid to participants and withdrawals, decreased by \$223.7 million to (\$46.4) million for the year ended June 30, 2023, and decreased by \$41.7 million to \$177.3 million for the year ended June 30, 2022.

Participant contributions and benefits paid to participants and withdrawals were as follows:

	2023		2022		2021
	(dollar amo	ounts	expressed in	thous	ands)
Participant contributions:					
Scholars Choice Fund	\$ 387,609	\$	464,520	\$	433,817
Direct Portfolio Fund	615,691		717,043		620,446
Stable Value Plus Fund	31,378		38,519		44,827
Smart Choice Fund	54,070		55,982		53,609
Total participant contributions	\$ 1,088,748	\$	1,276,064	\$	1,152,699
Benefits paid to participants and withdrawals:					
Scholars Choice Fund	\$ 555,978		574,274		509,717
Direct Portfolio Fund	478,953		433,657		343,882
Stable Value Plus Fund	49,468		40,320		34,205
Smart Choice Fund	 50,768	. <u></u>	50,508		45,860
Total benefits paid to participants					
and withdrawals	\$ 1,135,167	\$_	1,098,759	\$_	933,664
Net participant contributions	\$ (46,419)	\$	177,305	\$_	219,035

Participant contributions were 10.3%, 11.9%, and 11.1% of average net position for the years ended June 30, 2023, 2022 and 2021, respectively. Benefits paid to participants and withdrawals were 10.7%, 10.2% and 9.0% of average net position for the years ended June 30, 2023, 2022 and 2021, respectively.

# College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Management's Discussion and Analysis (Unaudited)

June 30, 2023 and 2022

### **Comparison of Current Year Results to Prior Year (continued):**

### **College Savings Program (continued):**

Fees are primarily comprised of funds received from TFI, Legg Mason and the Managers for marketing and promotion of the Funds. In fiscal year 2023, CollegeInvest recorded these fees as income to the Borrower Benefit Fund and transferred \$2.0 million to the College Savings Program Funds for promotion of the program. In the fiscal years 2022 and 2021, CollegeInvest recorded income in the College Savings Program Funds for the amount utilized. CollegeInvest utilized fees of \$2.0 million, \$1.4 million, and \$1.3 million for the years ended June 30, 2023, 2022, and 2021, respectively.

Administrative and service fees are charged to participants as a percentage of net position based on the investment option chosen. These charges were approximately 0.4%, 0.4%, and 0.3% of average net position for the years ended June 30, 2023, 2022 and 2021, respectively.

#### Colorado ABLE:

Condensed Statements of Fiduciary Net Position as of June 30:

		2023	
	(dollar amou	nts expresse	d in thousands)
Cash and investments	\$	24,205	
Total fiduciary assets		24,205	
Total liabilities		44	
Total fiduciary net position, held in trust	\$	24,161	

CollegeInvest established the Colorado ABLE Trust fund in fiscal year 2023. Combined cash and investments of ABLE are \$24.2 million on June 30, 2023. The cash and investments increased from the converted assets of \$23.9 million and net contributions (participant contributions less benefits paid to participants and withdrawals) of \$268,000.

Liabilities consists of amounts payable for underlying fund investments purchased, payables for withdrawals approved but not yet paid, service and administrative fees payable, unearned revenue, and due to participants.

# College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Management's Discussion and Analysis (Unaudited)

June 30, 2023 and 2022

### **Comparison of Current Year Results to Prior Year (continued):**

#### Colorado ABLE (continued):

Condensed Statements of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position for the Year Ended June 30:

	_	2023	
	(dollar ar	nounts express	sed in thousands)
Net investment income	\$	7	
Participant contributions		416	
Conversion in	_	23,888	
Total additions	-	24,311	
Benefits paid to participants and withdrawals		148	
Administrative, marketing and service fee expense	_	2	
Total deductions	-	150	
Change in fiduciary net position		24,161	
Fiduciary net position, beginning of period	<u>-</u>	-	
Fiduciary net position, end of year	\$	24,161	

The conversion of Colorado assets to the Colorado ABLE Trust fund occurred on June 16, 2023, in the amount of \$23.9 million. The Changes in Fiduciary Net Positions consists of activity between June 16, 2023 to June 30, 2023. Net investment earnings are comprised of dividends, interest earnings, net realized and unrealized gains and losses from security transactions. Net investment earnings were \$7,000 for the period ended June 30, 2023. ABLE participant contributions, net of benefits paid to participants and withdrawals, were \$268,000 for the period ended June 30, 2023.

### **Economic Factors:**

• Performance of individual participant accounts and individual portfolios within the College Savings Program Funds and ABLE Fund are dependent on risk factors associated with market-based investments. Fair market valuation of participant accounts may fluctuate based on market performance.

# College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Management's Discussion and Analysis (Unaudited)

June 30, 2023 and 2022

### **Economic Factors (continued):**

- Amounts contributed to the College Savings Program by participants may be more or less than the amounts needed by beneficiaries to attend a particular institution of higher education and do not guarantee acceptance into any institution of higher education.
- Participants are responsible for selecting portfolios in accordance with their risk tolerance.
  The College Savings Program and ABLE do not guarantee return of principal or a certain
  investment rate of return on investments. Under the Nationwide and FirstBank agreements,
  the return of principal and certain investment rates of return are guaranteed for the SVP and
  the SCCS, respectively.

### **Requests for Information:**

This report is designed to provide a general overview of the Funds' finances. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional information should be addressed to CollegeInvest, 1600 Broadway, Suite 2300, Denver, Colorado 80202, Attn: Chief Financial Officer.

# CollegeInvest College Savings Program Funds

# Statements of Fiduciary Net Position June 30, 2023 and 2022

(Dollar amounts expressed in thousands)

			2023					2022		
	Scholars Choice Fund	Direct Portfolio Fund	Stable Value Plus Fund	Smart Choice Fund	Total Private- Purpose Trust Funds	Scholars Choice Fund	Direct Portfolio Fund	Stable Value Plus Fund	Smart Choice Fund	Total Private Purpose Trust Funds
Fiduciary assets:										
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,876	\$ 7,323	\$ 253	\$ 93,700	\$ 103,152	\$ 1,628	\$ 5,707	\$ 251	\$ 90,032	\$ 97,618
Investments, at fair value	4,847,010	5,908,989	159,109	-	10,915,108	4,622,659	5,277,579	174,761	-	10,074,999
Receivable for portfolio units sold										
and investments sold	1,085	5,215	-	-	6,300	1,473	4,011	-	-	5,484
Dividends and interest receivable	-	5,874	-	-	5,874	-	4,364	-	-	4,364
Due from plan managers	236	279	279	8	802	232	262	305	7	806
Due from (to) Student Loan Program Funds	11,563	(246)	(268)	(8)	11,041	 10,516	(248)	(336)	(7)	9,925
Total fiduciary assets	4,861,770	5,927,434	159,373	93,700	11,042,277	4,636,508	5,291,675	174,981	90,032	10,193,196
Liabilities:										
Accounts payable	28	34	20	-	82	6	14	3	-	23
Payable for portfolio units repurchased										
and investments purchased	3,060	2,609	-	-	5,669	2,923	1,937	189	-	5,049
Service and investment fees payable	3,929	1,393	200	-	5,522	4,118	1,280	-	-	5,398
Unearned revenue	-	-	12,289	-	12,289	-	-	12,572	-	12,572
Due to participants	11,770				11,770	 10,742				10,742
Total liabilities	18,787	4,036	12,509		35,332	 17,789	3,231	12,764		33,784
Total fiduciary net position, held in trust	\$ 4,842,983	\$ 5,923,398	\$ 146,864	\$ 93,700	\$ 11,006,945	\$ 4,618,719	\$ 5,288,444	\$ 162,217	\$ 90,032	\$ 10,159,412

# CollegeInvest College Savings Program Funds

# Statements of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position Years Ended June 30, 2023 and 2022

(Dollar amounts expressed in thousands)

2022

·			2023				2022					
	Scholars Choice	Direct Portfolio	Stable Value Plus	Smart Choice	Total Private- Purpose		olars oice	Direct Portfolio	Stable Value Pl		Smart Choice	Total Private Purpose
	Fund	Fund	Fund	Fund	Trust Funds	Fu	ınd	Fund	Fund		Fund	Trust Funds
Additions:												
Net investment income (loss)	415,372	512,215	3,892	457	931,936	(6	519,255)	(735,656)	4,	289	168	(1,350,454)
Participant contributions	387,609	615,691	31,378	54,070	1,088,748	4	164,520	717,043	38,	519	55,982	1,276,064
Fees						_	380	976				1,356
Total additions	802,981	1,127,906	35,270	54,527	2,020,684	(	154,355)	(17,637)	42,	808	56,150	(73,034)
Deductions:												
Benefits paid to participants												
and withdrawals	555,978	478,953	49,468	50,768	1,135,167		574,274	433,657	40,	320	50,508	1,098,759
Service fees	19,968	10,714	-	-	30,682		22,372	12,231		-	-	34,603
Administrative fees	2,771	3,285	1,155	91	7,302		3,097	3,470	1,	210	87	7,864
Marketing expenses	920	1,080	-	-	2,000	)	380	976		-	-	1,356
Excess (reduced) operating expenses	(319)	(422)	(270)	(17)	(1,028	<u> </u>	(918)	(1,024)	(	490)	(35)	(2,467)
Total deductions	579,318	493,610	50,353	50,842	1,174,123	<u> </u>	599,205	449,310	41,	040	50,560	1,140,115
Change in fiduciary net position												
before transfers	223,663	634,296	(15,083)	3,685	846,561	(7	753,560)	(466,947)	1,	768	5,590	(1,213,149)
Intraplan administrative fee transfers	709	(422)	(270)	(17)	-		1,549	(1,024)	(	490)	(35)	-
Transfer from the Borrower Benefit Fund	920	1,080	-	-	2,000	ı	-	-		-	-	-
Change in due to participants	(1,028)				(1,028	()	(2,468)	-			_	(2,468)
Change in fiduciary net position	224,264	634,954	(15,353)	3,668	847,533	(	754,479)	(467,971)	1,	278	5,555	(1,215,617)
Fiduciary net position, beginning of year	4,618,719	5,288,444	162,217	90,032	10,159,412	5,3	373,198	5,756,415	160,	939	84,477	11,375,029
Fiduciary net position, end of year	\$ 4,842,983	\$ 5,923,398	\$ 146,864	\$ 93,700	\$ 11,006,945	\$ 4,6	518,719	\$ 5,288,444	\$ 162,	217	\$ 90,032	\$ 10,159,412

# **Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund**

# Statement of Fiduciary Net Position June 30, 2023

### (Dollar amounts expressed in thousands)

	2023
	Colorado
	ABLE
	Fund
Fiduciary assets:	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 7,357
Investments, at fair value	16,848
Total fiduciary assets	 24,205
Liabilities:	
Payable for portfolio units repurchased and investments purchased	43
Service and investment fees payable	 1_
Total liabilities	 44_
Total fiduciary net position, held in trust	\$ 24,161

# **Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund**

# Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position Period from June 16, 2023 through June 30,2023 (Dollar amounts expressed in thousands)

		2023
	•	Colorado
		ABLE
		Fund
Additions:		
Net investment income	\$	7
Participant contributions		416
Conversion in		23,888
Total additions		24,311
Deductions:		
Benefits paid to participants and withdrawals		148
Servicing fees		2
Total deductions		150
Change in fiduciary net position		24,161
Fiduciary net position, beginning of period		
Fiduciary net position, end of year	\$	24,161

# College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Notes To Financial Statements
June 30, 2023 and 2022

### 1. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies:

Pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes 23-3.1-201, et seq., and 23-3.1-301, et seq., as amended, CollegeInvest is a division of the Colorado Department of Higher Education (Department) of the State of Colorado. The Executive Director of the Department has responsibility for oversight and management of CollegeInvest. In addition, CollegeInvest has a nine-person Advisory Board of Directors (Board) appointed by the Governor, with the consent of the State Senate, to serve four-year terms.

The Colorado General Assembly established a Section 529 college savings program, which includes the Scholars Choice Fund (SCF), Direct Portfolio Fund (DPF), Stable Value Plus Fund (SVP), and Smart Choice Fund (SCCS) (the College Savings Program Funds) and a Section 529A Achieving a Better Life Experience Program which includes the Colorado ABLE Fund (ABLE), all of which are administered by CollegeInvest. CollegeInvest also administers the Student Loan Program Funds, which is an enterprise fund consisting of the Borrower Benefit Fund and the Bond Fund. The Bond Fund was closed in fiscal year 2022. Separate financial statements were not prepared for the Student Loan Program Funds; however, information and related disclosures associated with this fund may be found in the State of Colorado Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. This report contains information relating only to the College Savings Funds and ABLE. The operations of the College Savings Funds and ABLE are presented as fiduciary activities (specifically private purpose trust funds) under accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. CollegeInvest receives no grants from, and is not otherwise financially assisted by, the State of Colorado or any local government of the state. CollegeInvest is an enterprise activity under Section 20, Article X of the Colorado Constitution (TABOR).

The Colorado Constitution and other State laws prohibit the State from providing its full faith and credit to obligations of entities such as the College Savings Funds and ABLE. As a result, payments from the College Savings Funds and ABLE are not guaranteed in any way by the state and shall not be considered to have created a debt or obligation of the state. Such payments are limited obligations, payable from participants' individual accounts in the College Savings Funds and ABLE, but not from the other assets of CollegeInvest, or the state. Similarly, investments in the College Savings Funds and ABLE are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or any other State or federal government agency, except for SCCS and ABLE checking option, which is insured by the FDIC, subject to the applicable limits. Investments in SCF, DPF and ABLE are not deposits or other obligations of TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc., Ascensus, The Vanguard Group, Inc., or any depository institution or affiliate of Ascensus or The Vanguard Group, Inc. Investments in SVP are obligations of Nationwide.

# College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Notes To Financial Statements June 30, 2023 and 2022

### 1. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued):

### **Reporting Entity:**

The College Savings Program was authorized in the 1999 legislative session and, as a result, the College Savings Funds were established to provide families with additional opportunities to save for future college educational expenses. The College Savings Funds account for the operations and fiduciary activities of the Section 529 savings program as private-purpose trusts, where both principal and earnings on principal may be spent for the trust's intended purpose. Participant contributions and the earnings thereon are invested to assist in meeting the obligations for future higher education expenses of a named student. The payments of general and administrative expenses and other activities of the Funds necessary to fulfill their purposes are recorded within the College Savings Funds.

The CollegeInvest ABLE Program, referred to as Colorado ABLE, was authorized in the 2017 legislative session and, as a result, the ABLE fund was established to provide eligible individuals the ability to save for qualified disability expenses in a tax-advantaged way. The ABLE fund accounts for the fiduciary activities of the Section 529A savings program as private-purpose trusts, where both principal and earnings on principal may be spent for the trust's intended purpose. Participant contributions and the earnings thereon are invested to assist in meeting the obligations for qualified disability expenses. CollegeInvest exited an Interstate Consortium agreement and established its own Colorado ABLE Trust fund in June 2023. The payments of general and administrative expenses and other activities of the ABLE Fund necessary to fulfill their purposes, are recorded within the Student Loan Program Funds.

There are no other funds of CollegeInvest combined in the accompanying financial statements. Thus, the accompanying statements are not intended to present the financial position or changes in financial position, of CollegeInvest as a whole in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Additionally, the College Savings Funds and ABLE are also presented as fiduciary activities (specifically private-purpose trust funds) in the State of Colorado Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. The financial statements of the College Savings Funds and ABLE are intended to present the fiduciary net position and changes in fiduciary net position for only that portion of the financial reporting entity, State of Colorado that is attributable to the transactions of the College Savings Funds and ABLE. They do not purport to, and do not present fairly, the financial position of the State of Colorado, as of June 30, 2023 and 2022, and the changes in its financial position, or, where applicable, its cash flows, for the years then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

# College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Notes To Financial Statements
June 30, 2023 and 2022

### 1. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued):

### **Reporting Entity:**

Each Fund in the College Savings Program was established as a Section 529 plan under the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). The College Savings Funds offer certain federal and state tax advantages to investors. The primary tax advantage to participants in the College Savings Funds is the ability to exclude from federal taxable income the earnings on any withdrawals that are used for qualified higher education expenses from the College Savings Program, as that term is defined in Section 529 of the IRC. If a participant is subject to Colorado income tax, earnings on qualified withdrawals are excluded from state taxable income.

ABLE was established as a Section 529A plan under the IRC. The ABLE Fund offers certain federal and state tax advantages to investors. The primary tax advantage to participants in the ABLE Fund is the ability to exclude from federal taxable income the earnings on any withdrawals that are used for qualified disability expenses from the ABLE Program, as defined in the IRC. If a participant is subject to Colorado income tax, earnings on qualified withdrawals are excluded from state taxable income. ABLE account owners are entitled to a Colorado income tax deduction up to the Federal limit on contributions of \$17,000 per year, subject to recapture in subsequent years in which non-qualified withdrawals are made.

In addition, individuals, estates, and trusts subject to Colorado income tax generally are entitled to a deduction to the extent of their Colorado taxable income for the year for contributions made to a state sponsored Section 529 and 529A plans, subject to recapture in subsequent years in which nonqualified withdrawals are made. The Colorado state tax deduction is \$20,700 per tax payer, per beneficiary for single filers, or \$31,000 per tax filing, per beneficiary for joint tax return filers for the 2023 tax year and \$20,000 per tax payer, per beneficiary for single filers, or \$30,000 per tax filing, per beneficiary for joint tax return filers for the 2022 tax year. Note that an otherwise nontaxable rollover to another Section 529 or Section 529A program that is not associated with the State will trigger recapture of the Colorado income tax deduction described above in the year of the rollover. ABLE state tax deductions were effective January 1, 2023.

### Scholars Choice Fund:

The Scholars Choice Fund (SCF) began operations in October 1999. SCF offers 28 investment portfolios in which participants may invest. Each investment portfolio is comprised of one or more of the 25 underlying investments as of June 30, 2023.

# College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Notes To Financial Statements June 30, 2023 and 2022

### 1. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued):

### **Reporting Entity (continued):**

#### Scholars Choice Fund (continued):

CollegeInvest has an agreement with TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc. ("TFI") to manage the advisor sold accounts of the SCF. The TFI contract is a ten-year contract expiring on July 19, 2031, subject to possible extension. TFI is responsible for investment advisory, asset allocation, recordkeeping, reporting and other services for the SCF. Nuveen Securities, LLC, is a wholly owned subsidiary of TFI, and is responsible for the marketing and distribution of the SCF.

During fiscal year 2021, CollegeInvest gave notice of termination of the Services Agreement between CollegeInvest and QS Investors, LLC ("QS") and Legg Mason Investor Services, LLC ("LMIS"), and contracted with TFI to serve as the successor manager for the Program. QS and LMIS remained as managers through fiscal year 2021. The transfer of program assets, records and management responsibilities to TFI was completed on July 19, 2021.

The investment return for SCF is based on the market performance of investments. Investment options are selected by CollegeInvest based on recommendations from TFI.

Participants in the SCF may invest in one or more of the following options:

Enrollment year investment portfolios: Contributions are invested in one or more of 10 enrollment year investment portfolios according to the target enrollment year of the student. As the student gets older and closer to college years, the investment becomes increasingly conservative over time. Except for the In School Portfolio, each Enrollment Year Investment Portfolio's Investments in its underlying fund are assessed and rebalanced on a quarterly basis by TFI.

# College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Notes To Financial Statements June 30, 2023 and 2022

1. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued):

**Reporting Entity (continued):** 

Scholars Choice Fund (continued):

FY 2023 Enrollment Year		
Investment Portfolios		
2040 / 2041 Enrollment Portfolio		
2038 / 2039 Enrollment Portfolio		
2036 / 2037 Enrollment Portfolio		
2034 / 2035 Enrollment Portfolio		
2032 / 2033 Enrollment Portfolio		
2030 / 2031 Enrollment Portfolio		
2028 / 2029 Enrollment Portfolio		
2026 / 2027 Enrollment Portfolio		
2024 / 2025 Enrollment Portfolio		
In School Portfolio		

FY 2022 Enrollment Year		
Investment Portfolios		
2038 / 2039 Enrollment Portfolio		
2036 / 2037 Enrollment Portfolio		
2034 / 2035 Enrollment Portfolio		
2032 / 2033 Enrollment Portfolio		
2030 / 2031 Enrollment Portfolio		
2028 / 2029 Enrollment Portfolio		
2026 / 2027 Enrollment Portfolio		
2024 / 2025 Enrollment Portfolio		
2022 / 2023 Enrollment Portfolio		
In School Portfolio		

- Target allocation: There are four types of target allocation portfolios available: All Equity Allocation, Growth Allocations, Balanced Allocation, and Conservative Allocation.
- Individual Fund Portfolio: There are 14 individual fund portfolios, each of which invests in a single underlying Fund.

Individual Fund Portfolios		
U.S. Equities	Fixed income	
TIAA Large Cap U.S. Equity Index Portfolio	Western Asset Core Plus Bond Portfolio	
Nuveen Dividend Growth Portfolio	Dodge & Cox Global Fixed Income Portfolio	
Principal Equity Income Portfolio	Cash Equivalents	
T. Rowe Price Large Cap Growth Portfolio	TIAA Money Market Portfolio	
Principal Mid Cap Portfolio	Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG)	
TIAA U.S. Small Cap Portfolio	Nuveen ESG Large Cap U.S. Equity Portfolio	
Non-U.S. Equities	Nuveen ESG International Developed Equity Portfolio	
Oakmark International Portfolio	Nuveen ESG U.S. Aggregate Bond Portfolio	
DFA Emerging Markets Portfolio		

## College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Notes To Financial Statements
June 30, 2023 and 2022

#### 1. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued):

#### **Reporting Entity (continued):**

#### Scholars Choice Fund (continued):

Prior to July 19, 2022, while QS and LMIS were the Plan Managers, the following portfolios were available for investment options:

Participants in the SCF invested in one or more of the following options:

• Age-Based Options: Contributions were invested in one of seven portfolios according to the age of the student. As the student got older and closer to college years, the investment shifted from equity funds to bond and money market funds as follows:

Student's Age	Portfolio #	US Equity Funds	Non-US Equity Funds	Fixed Income	Non-US Fixed Income	Money Market Funds
0-3 years	1	49%	31%	20%	0%	0%
4-6 years	2	43%	27%	30%	0%	0%
7-9 years	3	37%	23%	40%	0%	0%
10-12 years	4	33%	17%	45%	5%	0%
13-15 years	5	29%	11%	42%	8%	10%
16-18 years	6	18%	2%	52%	3%	25%
19+ years	7	0%	0%	50%	0%	50%

- Balanced 50/50 Option: Contributions were invested 50% in equity mutual funds and 50% in bond funds throughout the life of the investment (Portfolio #4 above).
- Years-to-Enrollment Option: Contributions were invested in a series of portfolios that shift from equity mutual funds to bond and money market funds as the student approached college years. These portfolios were identical to Portfolios three through seven in the age-based portfolios.

## College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Notes To Financial Statements
June 30, 2023 and 2022

1. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued):

**Reporting Entity (continued):** 

Scholars Choice Fund (continued):

		US	Non-US		Non-US	Money
Years to	Portfolio	Equity	Equity	Fixed	Fixed	Market
Enrollment	#	Funds	Funds	Income	Income	Funds
10-12 years	3	37%	23%	40%	0%	0%
7-9 years	4	33%	17%	45%	5%	0%
4-6 years	5	29%	11%	42%	8%	10%
1-3 years	6	18%	2%	52%	3%	25%
Less than 1 year	7	0%	0%	50%	0%	50%

There are no equivalent years-to-enrollment portfolios #1 and #2 as noted within the age-based option portfolio tables within the previous page.

- All Equity Option: Contributions were invested in equity mutual funds throughout the life of the account.
- All Fixed Income Option: Contributions were invested in bond funds throughout the life of the account.
- Equity 80% Option: Contributions were invested 80% in equity mutual funds and 20% in fixed income investments (Portfolio #1 per previous page). The investment objective of this option was to seek long-term capital appreciation through investments in equity mutual funds while maintaining 20% exposure to the relatively more stable returns of fixed income investments through investment in fixed income mutual funds.
- Fixed Income 80% Option: Contributions were invested 80% in fixed income and money market fund investments and 20% in equity mutual funds (Portfolio #6). The investment objective of this option was to seek the relatively more stable returns of a fixed income investment through investments in fixed income mutual funds while maintaining 20% exposure to the long-term capital appreciation potential of investments in equity mutual funds.

## College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Notes To Financial Statements June 30, 2023 and 2022

#### 1. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued):

#### **Reporting Entity (continued):**

#### Scholars Choice Fund (continued):

- Cash Reserve Option: Contributions were invested in the Western Institutional Government Reserves Fund. The investment objective of the Cash Reserve Option was to seek maximum current income and preservation of capital.
- Individual Fund Options: Contributions were invested in the U.S. Aggressive Equity, U.S. Core Equity, U.S. Small Cap Equity, International Equity and Global Fixed Income. Each of the Individual Fund Portfolios invested all of its assets in a single Fund, as specified in the "Current Underlying Fund for Individual Fund Portfolio" tab under the "Target Fund Allocations" listed in the Program Disclosure Statement. While each of the Individual Fund Portfolios invested all of its assets in a single specified Fund, the Individual Fund Portfolios themselves were not mutual funds. The Fund in which an Individual Fund Portfolio invests all of its assets was subject to change.

#### Direct Portfolio Fund:

The Direct Portfolio Fund (DPF) began operations in October 2004. DPF offers 11 investment options, including three age-based options and eight blended and individual portfolios, in which participants may invest. Each investment option is comprised of one or more of 14 active portfolios within DPF as of June 30, 2023.

As the trustee for DPF, CollegeInvest entered into an agreement (DPF Service Agreement) with Ascensus and The Vanguard Group, Inc. (Managers) to manage the DPF. This contract expires on December 31, 2024, subject to possible extension. The investment return for DPF is based on the market performance of investments. Investment options are selected by CollegeInvest based on recommendations from the Managers.

Participants may invest in one or more of the following 11 options:

• Age-Based Options: Contributions are invested in one of three portfolios according to the age of the beneficiary. Money invested in age-based options are automatically transferred over time to successive Portfolios with asset allocations that change from equity funds to fixed income and to short-term reserve funds as the beneficiary approaches college age.

## College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Notes To Financial Statements June 30, 2023 and 2022

#### 1. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued):

#### **Reporting Entity (continued):**

#### Direct Portfolio Fund (continued):

Within the age-based options, participants may invest according to risk tolerance in either a conservative, moderate, or aggressive range of asset allocations as follows:

Beneficiary's Age	Conservative	Moderate	Aggressive	
Navyham through 1	62.5% stock funds	87.5% stock funds	Aggressive Growth Portfolio	
Newborn through 4 37.5% bond funds		12.5% bond funds	100% stock funds	
	Moderate Growth Portfolio	Growth Portfolio	87.5% stock funds	
5 through 6	50% stock funds	75% stock funds	12.5% bond funds	
	50% bond funds	25% bond funds		
7.41	37.5% stock funds	62.5% stock funds	87.5% stock funds	
7 through 8	62.5% bond funds	37.5% bond funds	12.5% bond funds	
	Conservative Growth Portfolio	Moderate Growth Portfolio	Growth Portfolio	
9 through 10	25% stock funds	50% stock funds	75% stock funds	
	75% bond funds	50% bond funds	25% bond funds	
11 41 1. 10	12.5% stock funds	37.5% stock funds	62.5% stock funds	
11 through 12	87.5% bond funds	62.5% bond funds	37.5 bond funds	
	Income Portfolio	Conservative Growth Portfolio	Moderate Growth Portfolio	
13 through 14	75% bond funds	25% stock funds	50% stock funds	
	25% short-term reserve funds	75% bond funds	50% bond funds	
15 41 1. 16	50% bond funds	12.5% stock funds	37.5% stock funds	
15 through 16	50% short-term reserve funds	87.5% bond funds	62.5% bond funds	
	25% bond funds	Income Portfolio	Conservative Growth Portfolio	
17 through 18	75% short-term reserve funds	75% bond funds	25% stock funds	
_		25% short-term reserve funds	75% bond funds	
	Interest Accumulation Portfolio	Income Portfolio	12.5% stock funds	
19 or older	100% short-term reserve funds	75% bond funds	87.5% bond funds	
		25% short-term reserve funds		

## College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Notes To Financial Statements
June 30, 2023 and 2022

#### 1. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued):

#### **Reporting Entity (continued):**

#### Direct Portfolio Fund (continued):

The following table provides the allocation of assets of each portfolio in the age-based options, and the associated underlying funds.

Underlying Fund	Aggressive Growth Portfolio	87.5% Stock/ 12.5% Bond Portfolio	Growth Portfolio	62.5% Stock/ 37.5% Bond Portfolio	Moderate Growth Portfolio	37.5% Stock/ 62.5% Bond Portfolio	Conservative Growth Portfolio	12.5% Stock/ 87.5% Bond Portfolio	Income Portfolio	50% Bond/ 50% Money Market Portfolio	25% Bond/ 75% Money Market Portfolio	Money Market Portfolio
Vanguard® Institutional Total Stock Market Index Fund Institutional Plus Shares	70%	61.25%	52.50%	43.75%	35%	26.25%	17.50%	8.75%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Vanguard® Total International Stock Index Fund Institutional Plus Shares	30%	26.25%	22.50%	18.75%	15%	11.25%	7.50%	3.75% 0%		0%	0%	0%
Total Stock Funds	100%	87.50%	75%	62.50%	50%	37.50%	25%	12.50%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Vanguard® Total Bond Market II Index Fund Institutional Shares	0%	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	42%	28%	14%	0%
Vanguard® Total International Bond Index Fund Institutional Shares	0%	2.50%	5%	7.50%	10%	12.50%	15%	17.50%	15%	10%	5%	0%
Vanguard® Short-term Inflation-Protected Securities Index Fund	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	18%	12%	6%	0%
Total Bond Funds	0%	12.50%	25%	37.50%	50%	62.50%	75%	87.50%	75%	50%	25%	0%
Vanguard® Federal Money Market Fund Admiral Shares	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	25%	50%	75%	100%
Total Money Market Funds	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	25%	50%	75%	100%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

• Blended Portfolios and Individual Portfolios: Contributions are invested in one of eight options. In these options, assets will be allocated to the Portfolio for the life of the investment unless the account owner directs a change in investment option. The Blended Portfolios and the Individual Portfolios are each invested according to a static asset allocation that does not change over time. Within the Blended Portfolios participants may invest according to risk tolerance in either an aggressive, growth, moderate growth, conservative growth, or income focused range of asset allocations.

## College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Notes To Financial Statements
June 30, 2023 and 2022

#### 1. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued):

#### **Reporting Entity (continued):**

#### Direct Portfolio Fund (continued):

Within the Individual Portfolios, participants may invest as follows:

- Stock Index Portfolio: Contributions are invested 100% in Vanguard Institutional Total Stock Market Index Fund Institutional Plus Shares and seeks to track the performance of a benchmark index that measures the investment return of the overall stock market.
- Bond Index Portfolio: Contributions are invested 100% in Vanguard Total Bond Market Index Fund Institutional Plus Shares and seeks to track the performance of a broad, market-weighted bond index.
- Interest Accumulation Portfolio: Contributions are invested 100% in Colorado Short-Term Reserves Account and seeks to provide preservation of principal and current income.

#### Stable Value Plus Fund:

The Stable Value Plus Fund (SVP) began operations in February 2003. In October 2019, CollegeInvest partnered with Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company (Nationwide) to offer a Deferred Fixed Annuity Contract (Nationwide Contract) for SVP. The contract provides a guarantee on the principal and earnings of SVP. The contract expires on June 30, 2029, subject to possible extension.

CollegeInvest had prior servicing and funding agreements with Brighthouse Insurance Company (Brighthouse), a wholly owned subsidiary of MetLife, Inc., to provide a guarantee on the principal and earnings of SVP. CollegeInvest provided notice of discontinuance of the service agreement (Brighthouse Agreement) in October 2019.

Nationwide offers an investment return based on an interest rate that is reset annually by Nationwide each January 1. The minimum investment return on accounts in the SVP could be as low as 0.51%, which is the minimum annual rate of 1.50% less the maximum CollegeInvest administrative fee of 0.99%. The administrative fee was 0.71% for the year ended June 30, 2023 and 2022.

## College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Notes To Financial Statements June 30, 2023 and 2022

#### 1. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued):

**Reporting Entity (continued):** 

Stable Value Plus Fund (continued):

Date	Nationwide Rate	Net Rate	
January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021	2.80%	2.09%	
January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022	2.50%	1.79%	
January 1, 2023 – June 30, 2023	2.50%	1.79%	

The prior Brighthouse funding agreement paid an annual rate of 2.0% from July 1, 2020 to December 23, 2022. The rate, net of CollegeInvest's administrative fee was 1.29% from July 1, 2020 through December 23, 2022.

CollegeInvest funded the interest shortfall between the Nationwide's net rate and Brighthouse's net rate of 2.09% and 1.29%, respectively, from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021 and 1.79% and 1.29%, respectively from January 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. A total of \$72,000 and \$312,000 was paid by CollegeInvest for the years ended June 30, 2023 and 2022, respectively.

The plan assets held at Brighthouse were transferred in four equal installments to Nationwide over a three year and 60-day time period, per the terms in the Brighthouse Funding Agreement. The last transfer occurred on December 23, 2023, when both agreements terminated.

CollegeInvest may terminate the Nationwide Contract at any time. In the event of such termination, CollegeInvest shall direct the investment of SVP assets to alternate investments as permitted by the Nationwide Contract and the investment policy of SVP. There is no assurance that CollegeInvest will be able to obtain such an alternate investment or maintain the current investment return for any such alternate investment.

## College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Notes To Financial Statements June 30, 2023 and 2022

#### 1. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued):

#### **Reporting Entity (continued):**

#### Smart Choice Fund:

In October 2009, CollegeInvest entered into an agreement with FirstBank, a Colorado banking company, to begin offering a college savings option called the Smart Choice College Savings Plan (SCCS). CollegeInvest acts as trustee for the plan and FirstBank performs administrative and record-keeping duties. The plan is being offered to provide an additional tax-advantaged savings vehicle for participants to utilize in saving for post-secondary education by providing the benefits of a 529 plan along with the stability and security of an FDIC-insured bank. The product offerings through the SCCS are a One-Year Time Savings option and a Money Market Savings option. The agreement expires September 30, 2029, subject to possible extension.

The interest rate paid on amounts deposited into the money market savings account and the one-year time saving account will be established by FirstBank. However, the rates for each type of account must not be less than 0.10% of the interest rate publicly offered directly by FirstBank on similar money market and savings accounts. The rates are variable and are published daily by FirstBank on their website. The interest rate will be calculated, and may be adjusted if needed, every Wednesday and on the first day of each month, and is net of all administrative and other charges of FirstBank.

#### Colorado ABLE:

The Colorado ABLE Program began in August 2017. CollegeInvest formed Colorado ABLE and was responsible for promoting the ABLE Program. CollegeInvest entered into an ABLE Interstate Agreement establishing an ABLE Consortium Advisory Committee with the Office of the Illinois State Treasurer as the facilitating state. The Office of the Illinois State Treasurer entered an agreement with Ascensus College Savings Recordkeeping Services, LLC to perform investment management, administrative services, customer service, and outreach material support for all member of the Consortium. CollegeInvest exited the Interstate Consortium agreement in June 2023 and established its own Colorado ABLE Trust fund.

## College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Notes To Financial Statements June 30, 2023 and 2022

#### 1. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued):

#### **Reporting Entity (continued):**

#### Colorado ABLE (continued):

In June 2023, CollegeInvest entered into an agreement with Ascensus College Savings Recordkeeping Services, LLC and Ascensus Investment Advisors, LLC to provide administrative and recordkeeping duties, and investment management for the Colorado ABLE program. The plan is offered to provide an additional tax-advantaged savings vehicle for participants to utilize in saving for qualified disability expenses without jeopardizing their federal means-tested benefits by providing the benefits of a 529A plan along with the stability and security of an FDIC insured bank. The agreement expires May 30, 2032, subject to possible extension.

The Colorado assets were converted from the Consortium to the Colorado ABLE Trust fund on June 16, 2023.

Participants may invest in one or more of the following seven options:

• Six target risk options: Contributions are invested in one of six target risk options. In these options, assets will be allocated to the portfolio for the life of the investment unless the account owner directs a change in investment option. The target risk portfolios are each invested according to a static asset allocation that does not change over time. Within the target risk participants may invest according to risk tolerance in either an aggressive, moderately aggressive, growth, moderate, moderately conservative, and conservative focused range of asset allocations.

The following table provides the allocation of assets of each portfolio in the target risk options, and the associated underlying funds.

## College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Notes To Financial Statements June 30, 2023 and 2022

### 1. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued):

### **Reporting Entity (continued):**

#### Colorado ABLE (continued):

Underlying Fund	Aggressive Growth Portfolio	Growth Portfolio	Growth Portfolio	Moderate Growth Portfolio	Moderately Conservative Portfolio	Conservative Portfolio
Vanguard® Institutional Total Stock Market Index Fund	55.50%	46.25%	37.00%	27.75%	18.50%	6.00%
Vanguard® Total International Stock Index Fund	31.50%	26.25%	21.00%	15.75%	10.50%	3.50%
Schwab U.S. REIT EFT	3.00%	2.50%	2.00%	1.50%	1.00%	0.50%
Total Stock Funds	90%	75%	60%	45%	30%	10%
Vanguard® Total Bond Market II Index Fund	2.84%	8.30%	12.25%	16.62%	15.75%	10.50%
Vanguard® Short-term Bond Index Fund	1.40%	4.75%	7.00%	9.50%	9.00%	6.00%
Vanguard® Short-term Inflation-Protected Securities Index Fund	2.38%	5.94%	8.75%	11.88%	11.25%	7.50%
American Funds High Income Trust	2.38%	2.38%	1.75%	2.38%	0.00%	0.00%
iShares Core International Aggregate Bond EFT	0.50%	2.38%	5.25%	7.12%	9.00%	6.00%
Total Bond Funds	9.50%	23.75%	35.00%	47.50%	45.00%	30.00%
Sallie Mae High Yield Savings Account	0.50%	1.25%	5.00%	7.50%	25.00%	60.00%
Total Money Market Funds	0.50%	1.25%	5.00%	7.50%	25.00%	60.00%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

• Checking account option: Contributions are invested in an FDIC insured checking account.

## College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Notes To Financial Statements June 30, 2023 and 2022

#### 1. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued):

#### **Basis of Accounting:**

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, including applicable standards of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). The accrual basis of accounting is utilized by the Funds.

Additions to fiduciary net position are recognized in the accounting period in which they are earned and deductions from fiduciary net position are recognized in the period they are incurred.

#### Cash and Cash Equivalents:

The College Savings Funds and ABLE consider all cash and demand deposit accounts to be cash equivalents.

#### **Investments and Fiduciary Net Position Additions/Deductions:**

For the College Savings Program, TFI has responsibility for investing the assets of each of the SCF's portfolios, and the Managers have responsibility for investing the assets of the DPF's portfolios in equity mutual funds, fixed income mutual funds, money market funds, and other investments (Underlying Funds), in accordance with CollegeInvest's Investment Policy Statements, and the Portfolio selected for investment by the participant. Investments are carried at fair value, which is primarily determined based on market prices at June 30, 2023 and 2022.

For the ABLE Program, Ascenus has the responsibility for investing the assets of the ABLE fund in equity mutual funds, fixed income mutual funds, and money market funds in accordance with CollegeInvest's ABLE Investment Policy Statement and the option selected for investment by the participant. Investments are carried at fair value, which is primarily determined based on market prices at June 30, 2023 and 2022.

Security transactions for the SCF, the DPF, and ABLE are accounted for on a trade-date basis. This may result in receivables and payables for transactions at year-end. Investments in the Underlying Funds are valued at the closing net asset value per share of each Underlying Fund on the day of valuation.

## College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Notes To Financial Statements June 30, 2023 and 2022

#### 1. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued):

#### **Investments and Fiduciary Net Position Additions/Deductions (continued):**

Income distributions and short-term capital gain distributions from the Underlying Funds are recorded on the ex-dividend date as investment and interest earnings are recorded on an accrual basis. Long-term capital gains, if any, from the Underlying Funds are recorded on the ex-dividend date as realized gains. Gains or losses on the sale of the Underlying Funds are calculated by using the specific identification method.

CollegeInvest has responsibility for transferring the assets of the participants of the SVP to Nationwide in accordance with the Nationwide Contract. Investments in the Underlying Funds are purchased weekly and are valued at the closing net asset value per share on the date of transfer to Nationwide. Interest earnings are credited to participant accounts daily. Distributions from the SVP are valued on the date immediately preceding the date that a payment is made by CollegeInvest in satisfaction of a withdrawal request.

All contributions received from participants of the SCCS will be made to a plan account and, at the direction of the account owner, will be deposited in a One-Year Time Savings Account or a Money Market Savings Account with FirstBank through its individually chartered bank.

All ABLE checking account contributions received from participants will be made to a plan account and, at the direction of the account owner, will be deposited in a checking account with Fifth Third Bank through its individually chartered bank.

#### **Due from (to) Student Loan Program Funds:**

CollegeInvest utilizes the Borrower Benefit Fund (within the Student Loan Program Funds of CollegeInvest) for payment of general and administrative expenses including salaries and related pension and other postemployment benefits and other activities necessary to fulfill the purposes of the various funds administered by CollegeInvest, including the College Savings Funds and ABLE. Expenses paid from the Borrower Benefit Fund related to the College Savings Funds are reimbursed by the College Savings Funds through the administrative fee. The amount of College Savings administrative fees received and held in the Borrower Benefit Fund that exceeds expenses paid by the Borrower Benefit Fund results in a receivable, and vice-versa. In addition, marketing and scholarship commitments and reserves are held in the Borrower Benefit Fund and are recorded as receivable on the College Savings Funds.

## College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Notes To Financial Statements June 30, 2023 and 2022

#### 1. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued):

#### **Unearned Revenue:**

Colorado legislation passed in 2019 required CollegeInvest to transfer funds from the Colorado CollegeInvest Scholarship Program to the SVP for creation of Child Kickstarter (First Step) Accounts. The CollegeInvest First Step Program provides a \$100 contribution adjusted annually for inflation, to the CollegeInvest college savings account of a beneficiary born or adopted in the State of Colorado on or after January 1, 2020. The gift amount was \$110 and \$105 for calendar year 2023 and 2022, respectively. The amount recorded as First Step unearned revenue was approximately \$12.3 million and \$12.6 million as of June 30, 2023 and 2022, respectively.

#### Fee Limitation/Due to Participants:

To the extent that College Savings administrative fees collected from participants exceed the expenses of the College Savings Program, CollegeInvest shall 1) determine if such revenues are required to fund subsequent year expenses of the Program; 2) determine if such fees are required to fund prior years' unfunded expenses of the Program; or 3) reduce future fees of the plan participants for the following year.

As of June 30, 2023 and 2022, \$11.8 million and \$10.7 million in fees were accumulated in reserves that were greater than actual expenses, respectively. As of June 30, 2023, the \$11.8 million reserve is restricted for future expenses of CollegeInvest in its capacity as administrator of the College Savings Program. It is CollegeInvest's intent to maintain up to a 36-month reserve of estimated expenses.

#### **Participant Contributions:**

The aggregate balance limit for all Colorado Section 529 plans for a particular beneficiary from all sources, excluding income, is \$500,000. The balance limit is set by CollegeInvest based on Internal Revenue Service (IRS) guidelines and is subject to change. In particular, if the IRS adopts final regulations, it may require or permit a maximum balance limit that differs from the \$500,000 limit. No additional contributions may be made to an account if the balance limit is reached; however, the account may continue to grow beyond this limit through earnings.

## College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Notes To Financial Statements June 30, 2023 and 2022

#### 1. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued):

#### **Participant Contributions (continued):**

The account balance limit in the ABLE fund is \$500,000. An account owner is allowed to contribute up to \$17,000 per year to their ABLE account, unless the account owner earns income and may contribute additional funds beyond the \$17,000 contribution limit. Account balances of \$100,000 or less are excluded from the Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Account balances greater than \$100,000 are counted against the resource limit and SSI benefits will be suspended until the account balance no longer exceeds the resource limit.

#### Withdrawals:

A qualified withdrawal from the College Savings Funds is a withdrawal made to pay qualified higher education expenses of the beneficiary. The earnings on qualified withdrawals are not subject to federal income tax. All withdrawals other than for this purpose are considered non-qualified withdrawals. Non-qualified withdrawals are subject to federal income tax plus a 10% penalty on earnings per Section 529 of the IRC. A non-qualified withdrawal from College Savings Funds is not subject to the 10% penalty only if the withdrawal is: (i) made on account of the death or disability of the beneficiary; (ii) made on account of a scholarship received by the beneficiary, to the extent that the withdrawal does not exceed the amount of the scholarship; or (iii) a non-taxable transfer to another account or to another Section 529 plan on behalf of a beneficiary or for a different beneficiary who is a family member of the original student. A non-qualified withdrawal may also be subject to recapture in the event a deduction has been taken from Colorado taxable income.

A qualified withdrawal from the ABLE fund is a withdrawal for a qualified disability expense. The earnings on qualified withdrawals are not subject to federal income tax. All withdrawals other than for this purpose are considered non-qualified withdrawals. Non-qualified withdrawals are subject to federal income tax plus a 10% penalty on earnings per Section 529A of the IRC.

#### **Exchanges, Conversions and Transfers**

Subject to certain limitations and restrictions, account owners may generally direct that their amount balance be reinvested in one or more different investment options twice per calendar year. Transfers of funds between investment options are referred to as "exchanges."

In the SCF, Class C units automatically convert to Class A units in the sixth year after purchase. These transactions are referred to as "conversions."

## College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Notes To Financial Statements June 30, 2023 and 2022

#### 1. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued):

#### **Exchanges, Conversions and Transfers (continued):**

Under certain conditions, College Savings account assets may be transferred from one beneficiary to another or from one account owner to another. Upon death, ABLE account assets may be transferred from the account owner to a sibling, but only if the sibling is also disabled. These transactions are referred to as "transfers."

The amounts of contributions and withdrawals reported on the statement of changes in fiduciary net position do not include exchanges, share conversions or transfers, as these types of transactions have no impact on the overall financial position of CollegeInvest.

CollegeInvest exited the Interstate Consortium agreement and converted the Colorado assets to the Colorado ABLE Trust fund on June 16, 2023, in the amount of \$23.9 million. The assets are presented in the statement of changes in fiduciary net position as conversion in.

#### **Investment, Service and Administrative Fees:**

#### Scholars Choice Fund:

The SCF Service Agreement states that TFI will receive plan manager and service fees at an annual percentage rate of average daily net assets. The rate structures can be found in the Plan Disclosure Statement for the Scholars Choice Fund.

This rate will vary with the Unit Class the account owner chooses. According to the SCF Service Agreement, each participant bears certain ongoing service fees that will vary with the Unit Classes the participant chooses. These direct service fees provide for the costs associated with distribution, servicing, and administration of the Unit Classes. Such direct service fees reduce the value of the participant's account as incurred. Such fees are payable to TFI monthly, solely from the assets of SCF. SCF paid service fees of \$20.0 million and \$21.6 million for the years ended June 30, 2023 and 2022, respectively.

Under the SCF Service Agreement with LMIS, the SCF paid \$78,600 in investment fees and \$724,800 in service fees for the years ended June 30, 2022.

## College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Notes To Financial Statements June 30, 2023 and 2022

#### 1. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued):

**Investment, Service and Administrative Fees (continued):** 

#### Scholars Choice Fund (continued):

The SCF Service Agreement states that CollegeInvest will receive an administrative fee at an annual rate of up to 0.10% of average daily net assets. These fees represent charges to SCF for actual administrative costs of CollegeInvest. Such fees are payable to CollegeInvest monthly, solely from the assets of the SCF. From July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023, CollegeInvest received an administrative fee at an annual rate of 0.06% of average daily net assets. SCF paid administrative fees of \$2.8 million and \$3.1 million for the years ended June 30, 2023 and 2022, respectively.

#### Direct Portfolio Fund:

CollegeInvest entered into a service agreement (DPF Service Agreement) with Ascensus and The Vanguard Group, Inc. (Managers), pursuant to which the Managers are responsible for providing administrative, record-keeping, marketing, and investment management services to the DPF. During the year ended June 30, 2023, and 2022, DPF paid investment fees of \$1.9 million and \$2.0 million and service fees of \$10.7 million and \$12.2 million, respectively. Such direct investment and service fees reduce the value of the participant's account as incurred. Such fees are payable to the Managers monthly, solely from the assets of the DPF.

Under the DPF Service Agreement, CollegeInvest receives an administrative fee at an annual rate of up to 0.10% of average daily net assets. These fees represent charges to DPF for actual administrative costs of CollegeInvest. Such fees are payable to CollegeInvest monthly, solely from the assets of DPF. From July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023 CollegeInvest received an administrative fee at an annual rate of 0.06% of average daily net assets. DPF paid administrative fees of \$3.3 million and \$3.5 million for the years ended June 30, 2023 and 2022, respectively.

#### Stable Value Plus Fund:

Contributions are invested by deposit under the Deferred Fixed Annuity Contract (Nationwide Contract) between CollegeInvest and Nationwide. Deposits made under the Nationwide Contract become commingled with the general account of Nationwide. Nationwide is obligated to repay the amounts deposited under the Nationwide Contract and an investment return as described on page 36. The annual interest rate calculated each year under the Nationwide Contract is net of all administrative and other charges of Nationwide.

## College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Notes To Financial Statements June 30, 2023 and 2022

#### 1. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued):

**Investment, Service and Administrative Fees (continued):** 

#### Stable Value Plus Fund (continued):

The Nationwide Contract states that CollegeInvest will receive an administrative fee at an annual rate of up to 0.99% of the average daily net assets of the Fund. Such fees are payable to CollegeInvest solely from account owners and cannot exceed actual expenses of administering the Fund as defined by statute. For the period from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023, the fee was 0.71%. SVP paid administrative fees on behalf of its participants of \$1.2 million for the years ended June 30, 2023 and 2022.

#### Smart Choice Fund:

All monies received as contributions to the accounts under the service agreement (SCCS Service Agreement) between CollegeInvest and FirstBank shall be deposited by FirstBank into the Trust Account and invested according to the respective Investment Option or Options, as directed by the account owner. The SCCS Service Agreement requires FirstBank to repay the amounts deposited along with any interest earned on their deposit. The interest rate will be calculated, and may be adjusted if needed, every Wednesday and on the first day of each month and is net of all administrative and other charges of FirstBank.

Under the SCCS Service Agreement, CollegeInvest receives an administrative fee at an annual rate of up to 0.10% of average daily net assets. These fees represent charges to SCCS for actual administrative costs of CollegeInvest. Such fees are payable to CollegeInvest monthly, solely from the assets of SCCS. SCCS paid administrative fees on behalf of its participants of \$91,000 and \$87,000 for the years ended June 30, 2023 and 2022, respectively.

## College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Notes To Financial Statements June 30, 2023 and 2022

#### 1. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued):

**Investment, Service and Administrative Fees (continued):** 

#### Colorado ABLE:

CollegeInvest entered into a management agreement with Ascensus College Savings Recordkeeping Services, LLC and Ascensus Investment Advisors, LLC (the Contractors) pursuant to which the Contractors are responsible for providing administrative, record-keeping, and investment management services to the ABLE Fund. Ascensus charges Investment fees, an annual account maintenance fees and a checking account fee. The annual account maintenance fee is \$58, assessed quarterly. If electronic delivery is established, the annual account maintenance fee is reduced to \$33. There is \$2.00 per month fee for the Checking Account Option which is waived if electronic delivery is established. During the year ended June 30, 2023, the ABLE fund paid investment fees and service fees of \$2,000. Such direct investment and service fees reduce the value of the participant's account as incurred. Such fees are payable to the Contractors monthly, solely from the assets of the ABLE fund.

From the annual account maintenance fee, CollegeInvest receives \$5.00 per ABLE account annually for ongoing administrative oversight. CollegeInvest received \$9,700 and \$5,400 in administrative fees from the Interstate Consortium agreement during the years ended June 30, 2023 and 2022, respectively, paid to the Borrower Benefit Fund.

#### 2. Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investments:

#### **Cash and Cash Equivalents:**

Cash and cash equivalents generally include contributions received that have not yet been invested in underlying funds and/or redemption proceeds from underlying funds for withdrawals that have not yet been distributed in accordance with the account owner's instructions.

All cash deposits of the SCF, DPF and ABLE are held by a custodian on behalf of the Manager/Contractor of each Fund until it is invested and/or redeemed from the Underlying Funds. Depending upon the timing of the cash receipts or payment, there could be up to two days' delay between actual receipt/payment of cash and the investment transaction. Cash and cash equivalents are held in trust by the College Savings Funds' managers and ABLE Contactors as of June 30, 2023 and 2022.

## College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Notes To Financial Statements June 30, 2023 and 2022

#### 2. Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investments (continued):

#### Cash and Cash Equivalents (continued):

All cash deposits of the SVP Funds are held by a bank. Payments and cash receipts are deposited to a demand deposit account daily. Contributions will be invested with Nationwide within 30 days of receipt by CollegeInvest. Interest earned on contributions prior to investment with Nationwide will accrue to CollegeInvest and will be used to offset administrative expenses. SVP had deposits that were not yet transferred to Nationwide of \$199,800 and \$188,700 as of June 30, 2023 and 2022, respectively.

All cash deposits of the SCCS Funds are held by FirstBank.

All cash deposits of the ABLE Checking accounts are held by Fifth Third Bank.

#### **Custodial Credit Risk – Cash Deposits:**

Cash deposits for the College Savings Funds as of June 30 are as follows:

	_	2023	2022		
	_	(dollar amounts expressed in thousa			
Demand deposit accounts	\$	253	\$	251	
Money market accounts	_	93,700		90,032	
Total cash deposits	\$	93,953	\$	90,283	

Custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of the failure of a depository financial institution, CollegeInvest will not be able to recover its deposits or will not be able to recover collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. Monies in the SVP demand deposit accounts are insured by federal depository insurance for the first \$250,000. Deposits in excess of the \$250,000 limit are collateralized subject to the provisions of the State's Public Deposit Protection Act (PDPA) for monies held within the state. Monies held in the SCF and DPF are uncollateralized. Individual accounts in the SCCS that are greater than \$250,000 are uncollateralized. There were no uncollateralized accounts in the SCCS as of June 30, 2023 and June 30, 2022.

## College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Notes To Financial Statements June 30, 2023 and 2022

#### 2. Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investments (continued):

**Custodial Credit Risk – Cash Deposits (continued):** 

Cash deposits for ABLE as of June 30 are as follows:

Checking accounts	\$ 9,313
Total cash deposits	\$ 9,313

Custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of the failure of a depository financial institution, CollegeInvest will not be able to recover its deposits or will not be able to recover collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. Monies in the ABLE demand deposit accounts are insured by federal depository insurance for the first \$250,000. There were no uncollateralized accounts in ABLE as of June 30, 2023.

#### **Investments:**

Investments, at fair value, for the College Savings Funds as of June 30 are as follows:

	_	2023	2022				
		(dollar amounts expressed in thousands)					
Scholars Choice Fund	\$	4,847,010	\$	4,622,659			
Direct Portfolio Fund		5,908,989		5,277,579			
Stable Value Plus Fund	_	159,109		174,761			
Total investments	\$	10,915,108	\$	10,074,999			

Investments, at fair value, for ABLE as of June 30 are as follows:

ABLE Fund	\$_	16,848
Total investments	\$	16,848

## College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Notes To Financial Statements June 30, 2023 and 2022

#### 2. Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investments (continued):

#### **Investment Authority and Policy:**

#### Scholars Choice Fund and Direct Portfolio Fund:

The Board approves the investment policies for both the SCF and DPF. Investments of assets in the SCF and DPF and the underlying portfolios are selected and managed in accordance with the standards set forth in the Sections 15-1-304 and 15-1.1-102, C.R.S. Consistent with these standards, the Board, or its designated committee, will determine from time-to-time suitable investment parameters for the SCF and the DPF, which seek to control risk through portfolio diversification. Generally, investments include money market mutual funds and bond and equity mutual funds. Each mutual fund in which an underlying portfolio is invested shall comply with the investment policy's permitted investment guidelines.

The table below identifies the significant investment types that are authorized for the SCF and DPF:

Authorized		Maximum	Maximum
Investment	Maximum	Percentage	Investment in
Туре	Maturity	of Portfolio	One Issuer [A]
U.S. Treasury Obligations	None	None	None
U.S. Agency Securities	None	None	None
Certificates of Deposit	12 months	[B]	[B]
Commercial Paper	9 months	None	None
General or Revenue Obligations	None	None	None
Repurchase Agreements [C]	None	None	None
Investment Agreements	None	None	None
Banker's Acceptances	None	None	None
Domestic Equity Securities	N/A	[D]	[D]
Foreign Equity Securities	N/A	[E]	[E]
Money Market Funds	N/A	None	None
Cash Management Accounts	N/A	None	None

## College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Notes To Financial Statements June 30, 2023 and 2022

#### 2. Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investments (continued):

**Investment Authority and Policy (continued):** 

#### Scholars Choice Fund and Direct Portfolio Fund (continued):

- [A] No more than 10% of the total amount of the fixed-income portion shall be committed to the securities of any one issuer at the time of purchase, with the exception of securities issued or guaranteed by the full faith and credit of the United States or AAA rated securities issued by governmental agencies as to which there is no limit.
- [B] No more than 5% of the assets of the short-term investment account shall be committed to certificates of deposit from one institution.
- [C] Repurchase agreements must be secured by U.S. Treasury Obligations or U.S. Agency Securities.
- [D] No more than 5% of the total amount of the underlying portfolio in the securities of any one issuer; no more than 5% of the outstanding shares of any single corporation; and no more than 25% of the total amount of the underlying portfolio in any one industry.
- [E] No more than 5% of the total amount of the underlying portfolio in the securities of any one issuer; no more than 5% of the outstanding shares of any single corporation; investment in any one country shall be no more than a) 25% of the total amount of the underlying portfolio or, b) the country weight in the MSCI ACWI ex US benchmark plus 10% and a minimum of eight countries should be represented in the underlying portfolio.

#### Stable Value Plus Fund:

The Board approves the investment policy for the SVP. Generally, investments include any funding agreement, guaranteed interest contract, guaranteed investment contract, annuity contract, repurchase agreement, or other similar investments which are issued by an insurance company or other investment provider with financial strength ratings in any one of the three highest rating categories by two or more nationally recognized rating agencies which regularly rate the ability of such investment providers to pay claims. The SVP may terminate any agreement with an existing investment provider should two or more of the nationally recognized rating agencies reduce their rating of the provider to a category that is below the lowest "A" rating. As of June 30, 2023 and 2022, the Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company's rating met the requirements of the investment policy.

## College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Notes To Financial Statements June 30, 2023 and 2022

#### 2. Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investments (continued):

**Investment Authority and Policy (continued):** 

#### Smart Choice Fund:

The Board, with the approval of the Executive Director of the Department, has the responsibility to select a financial institution to manage the plan assets. The SCCS will offer a number of investment options in interest-bearing accounts provided by FirstBank that reflect a conservative and safe risk tolerance for participants saving for post-secondary education. Generally, investments may include a regular savings account, a time savings account, a money market account, a time deposit account or a premier time account. Monies in these accounts are insured by the FDIC for the first \$250,000.

#### Colorado ABLE:

The Board approves the investment policies for ABLE. Investments of assets in the ABLE and the underlying portfolios are selected and managed in accordance with the standards set forth in the Sections 15-1-304 and 15-1.1-102, C.R.S. Consistent with these standards, the Board, or its designated committee, will determine from time-to-time suitable investment parameters for ABLE, which seek to control risk through portfolio diversification. Generally, investments include cash equivalents, bond and equity mutual funds and a checking account option. Each mutual fund in which an underlying portfolio is invested shall comply with the investment policy's permitted investment parameters. Monies in the checking accounts are insured by the FDIC for the first \$250,000.

# College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

## Notes To Financial Statements June 30, 2023 and 2022

#### 2. Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investments (continued):

The College Savings Funds' investments, at fair value, as of June 30 are as follows:

		2023	2022	
	_	(dollar amounts ex	presse	ed in thousands)
Vanguard Institutional Total Stock Market Index Fund				
Institutional Plus Shares	\$	2,443,326	\$	2,049,387
Vanguard Total Bond Market II Index Fund Institutional Shares		1,238,199		1,169,274
Vanguard Total International Stock Index Fund Institutional Plus Shares		1,001,419		889,941
TIAA-CREF Core Bond Fund I		909,857		897,263
TIAA Life Funding Agreement		842,243		825,458
TIAA-CREF Growth & Income Fund I		593,615		546,976
Vanguard Total International Bond Index Fund Institutional Shares		571,458		539,804
TIAA-CREF International Equity Index Fund I		511,217		493,079
Colorado Short-Term Reserves Accounts		482,591		460,690
TIAA-CREF Equity Index Fund		353,669		328,101
T. Rowe Price Large Cap Growth Fund I		237,699		200,120
TIAA-CREF Inflation Linked Bond Fund		225,626		223,389
Principal Equity Income Fund I		223,232		213,968
Nuveen Strategic Income Fund R6		177,866		175,543
Investment Agreement – Nationwide/MetLife		159,109		174,761
TIAA CREF Real Estate Securities Fund		154,419		147,386
TIAA-CREF Emerging Markets Equity Index Fund I		125,199		123,798
TIAA-CREF Money Market Fund		124,945		118,398
TIAA-CREF Quant Small Cap Equity Fund I		103,044		94,755
TIAA-CREF High Yield Fund I		93,784		91,252
Vanguard Short-Term Inflation-Protected Securities Index Fund Institutional Shares		89,396		88,819
TIAA-CREF S&P 500 Index Fund I		89,015		71,812
Vanguard Total Bond Market Index Fund Institutional Plus Shares		82,599		79,664
Western Asset Core Plus Bond Fund		35,315		38,951
Oakmark International Fund I		20,740		16,511
Dodge & Cox Global Bond Fund		8,577		7,184
Nuveen Dividend Growth Fund		6,852		3,095
Principal MidCap Institutional		3,840		2,119
Nuveen ESG Large-Cap ETF		2,229		1,345
Nuveen ESG U.S. Aggregate Bond ETF		1,484		457
DFA Emerging Markets Core Equity Portfolio I		1,243		876
Nuveen ESG International Developed Markets Equity ETF		1,192		757
Dreyfus Government Cash Management Institutional Fund		109		66
	\$	10,915,108	\$	10,074,999
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## College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Notes To Financial Statements June 30, 2023 and 2022

#### 2. Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investments (continued):

ABLE Funds' investments, at fair value, as of June 30 are as follows:

2023	
(dollar amounts expressed in thou	sands)

Vanguard Institutional Total Stock Market Index Fund	\$ 5,389
Institutional Plus Shares	
Sallie Mae High Yield Savings Account	3,091
Vanguard Total International Stock Index Fund	3,043
Vanguard Total Bond Market II Index Fund	1,750
Vanguard Short-Term Inflation-Protected Securities Index Fund	1,254
Vanguard Short-Term Bond Index Fund	984
iShares Core International Aggregate Bond ETF	779
Schwab US REIT ETF	292
American Funds High-Income Trust	242
Dreyfus Government Cash Management Institutional Fund	 24
	\$ 16,848

#### **Interest Rate Risk:**

Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in market interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. Generally, the longer the maturity of an investment the greater the sensitivity of its fair value to changes in market interest rates. CollegeInvest provides participants with investment opportunities in various portfolios that are constructed from a range of mutual funds that it has selected. CollegeInvest does not actively manage interest rate risk except through its mutual fund selection process. TFI and the Managers of the College Savings Funds and the Contractors of the ABLE Fund primarily report interest rate risk evaluation of the fixed income mutual funds in the various portfolios based on the duration method.

# College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

## Notes To Financial Statements June 30, 2023 and 2022

### 2. Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investments (continued):

#### **Interest Rate Risk (continued):**

The College Savings Funds' interest rate risk, as of June 30 are as follows:

	2023		2022		
	Duration	Weighted Average Maturity	Duration	Weighted Average Maturity	
Vanguard Total Bond Market II Index Fund Institutional Shares	6.5 years		6.7 years		
TIAA-CREF Core Bond Fund I	6.3 years		6.3 years		
Vanguard Total International Bond Index Fund Institutional Shares	7.5 years		7.7 years		
Colorado Short-Term Reserves Account	3.5 years		3.3 years		
TIAA-CREF Inflation Linked Bond Fund	4.2 years		4.6 years		
Nuveen Strategic Income Fund R6	5.4 years		4.5 years		
TIAA-CREF High Yield Fund I	3.8 years		4.3 years		
Vanguard Short-Term Inflation-Protected Securities Index Fund Institutional Shares	2.4 years		2.5 years		
Vanguard Total Bond Market Index Fund Institutional Plus Shares	6.5 years		6.7 years		
Western Asset Core Plus Bond Fund	7.8 years		8.0 years		
Dodge & Cox Global Bond Fund	4.6 years		4.5 years		
Nuveen ESGU.S. Aggregate Bond ETF	6.2 years		6.4 years		
Federal Money Market		46 days			
Dreyfus Government Cash Management Institutional Fund		66 days			
ABLE's interest rate risk, as of June 30 are as follows:	2023				
		Weighted			
		Average			
	Duration	Maturity			
Vanguard Total Bond Market II Index Fund	6.5 years				
Vanguard Short-Term Inflation-Protected Securities Index Fund	2.4 years				
Vanguard Short-Term Bond Index Fund	2.7 years				
iShares Core International Aggregate Bond ETF	6.9 years				
American Funds High-Income Trust	3.3 years				
Dreyfus Government Cash Management Institutional Fund		66 days			

## College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Notes To Financial Statements June 30, 2023 and 2022

#### 2. Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investments (continued):

#### **Credit Risk:**

Generally, credit risk is the risk that an issuer or other counterparty to an investment will not fulfill its obligation to the holder of the investment. This is measured by the assignment of a rating by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization. Investment options in SCF, DPF, and ABLE attempt to diversify risk by offering multiple portfolio options with a range of credit risk Investments of the underlying portfolios shall be selected and managed in accordance with the standards set forth in Section 15-1-304, C.R.S., that is: (a) with the care which men of prudence, discretion and intelligence exercise in the management of the property of another, not in regard to speculation but in regard to the permanent disposition of funds, considering the probable income as well as the probable safety of capital; and (b) for the sole benefit of the beneficiary. Investment decisions shall be made in accordance with the prudent investor rule set forth in Section 15-1.1-102, C.R.S. Consistent with the above, the Board of Directors, or its designated Committee, will determine, from time to time, suitable investment parameters for the SCF, DPF and ABLE which seek to control risk through portfolio diversification. Additionally, CollegeInvest's investment policy states that all mutual fund assets are subject to the provisions of the Investment Company Act of 1940. As of June 30, 2023 and 2022, investments in the SCF, DPF and SCCS portfolios and the Funding Agreement were unrated. The underlying securities of the repurchase agreement are explicitly guaranteed by the U.S. government and are not subject to credit risk disclosures.

#### **Units:**

The beneficial interests of each participant and beneficiary in the net position of all portfolios except SCCS and ABLE checking account are represented by units. Contributions to and redemptions from the portfolios are subject to terms and limitations defined in the participation agreement between the participant and the respective plan. Contributions to SCF, DPF, and ABLE (other than by electronic funds transfers) will purchase units in a portfolio at the net asset value per unit for that portfolio calculated no later than the business day following the day payment is received by TFI, the Managers, or the Contractors. Contributions by electronic funds transfers will purchase units at the unit value calculated on the day of transfer or, in certain cases, on the day that the monies become available. Contributions to SVP, including contributions received by electronic transfer, will purchase units at the net asset value calculated on the business day immediately preceding the date the contributions are invested with Nationwide. Contributions are required to be invested with Nationwide within 30 days of receipt by CollegeInvest.

## College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Notes To Financial Statements June 30, 2023 and 2022

#### 2. Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investments (continued):

#### **Units (continued):**

Withdrawals from SCF, DPF, and ABLE result in the redemption of units. The unit value is determined following TFI's, the Manager's or the Contractor's receipt of the withdrawal request. Unit values for each portfolio are determined daily. There are no distributions of net investment gains or net investment income to the portfolios' participants or beneficiaries. Withdrawals from SVP result in the redemption of units, based on the unit value determined on the date immediately preceding the date that a payment is made by CollegeInvest in satisfaction of a withdrawal request. Unit values for the Fund are determined daily. There are no distributions of net investment gains or net investment income to the participants or beneficiaries.

#### 3. Disclosures About Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities:

#### **Units:**

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Fair value measurements must maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. There is a hierarchy of three levels of inputs that may be used to measure fair value:

- **Level 1:** Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for an identical asset or liability that a government can access at the measurement date
- Level 2: Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1, that are observable for an asset or liability, either directly or indirectly. Level 2 inputs include quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities, quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active, or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data for substantially the full term of the assets or liabilities
- Level 3: Unobservable inputs supported by little or no market activity for an asset or liability

## College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Notes To Financial Statements June 30, 2023 and 2022

#### 3. Disclosures About Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities (continued):

#### **Recurring Measurements:**

The following table presents the fair value measurements of assets and liabilities recognized in the accompanying College Savings Program Fund statements of fiduciary net position measured at fair value on a recurring basis and the level within the fair value hierarchy in which the fair value measurements fall at June 30:

	2023			2022				
		Quoted Prices in				Quoted Prices in		
Investments	Carrying value	Active Markets for	Exempt Car		Carrying value	Active Markets for		Evamet
investments	Carrying value	Identical Assets			Carrying value	Identical Assets		Exempt
	(Level 1)				(Level 1)			
(\$ in thousands)								
Stock Mutual Funds	\$ 6,714,191	\$ 6,714,191	\$ -	9	6,009,483	\$ 6,009,483	\$	-
Bond Mutual Funds	3,434,162	3,434,162	1		3,311,601	3,311,601		-
Colorado ST Reserve Fund	482,591	-	482,591		460,690	-		460,690
Guaranteed Investment Contract	159,109	-	159,109		174,761	-		174,761
Money Market Funds	125,055	124,945	110		118,464	118,398		66
Total	\$ 10,915,108	\$ 10,273,298	\$ 641,810	9	10,074,999	\$ 9,439,482	\$	635,517

The following table presents the fair value measurements of assets and liabilities recognized in the accompanying ABLE statements of fiduciary net position measured at fair value on a recurring basis and the level within the fair value hierarchy in which the fair value measurements fall at June 30:

	2023				
		Quoted Prices in			
Investments	Carrying value	Active Markets for	Exament		
Investments	Carrying value	Identical Assets	Exempt		
		(Level 1)			
(\$ in thousands)					
Stock Mutual Funds	\$ 8,724	\$ 8,724	\$ -		
Bond Mutual Funds	5,009	5,009	-		
High Yield Savings	3,091	-	3,091		
Money Market Funds	24	24	-		
Total	\$ 16,848	\$ 13,757	\$ 3,091		

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies and inputs used for assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis and recognized in the accompanying statements of fiduciary net position, as well as the general classification of such assets and liabilities pursuant to the valuation hierarchy. There have been no significant changes in the valuation techniques during the years ended June 30, 2023 and 2022.

## College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Notes To Financial Statements June 30, 2023 and 2022

#### 3. Disclosures About Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities (continued):

#### **Investments:**

Where quoted market prices are available in an active market, securities are classified within Level 1 of the valuation hierarchy. If quoted market prices are not available, then fair values are estimated by using quoted prices of securities with similar characteristics or independent asset pricing services and pricing models, the inputs of which are market-based or independently sourced market parameters, including but not limited to, yield curves, interest rates volatilities, prepayments, defaults, cumulative loss projections and cash flows. Such securities are classified in Level 2 of the valuation hierarchy. In certain cases, where Level 1 or Level 2 inputs are not available, securities are classified within Level 3 of the hierarchy. CollegeInvest does not have any investments classified as Level 2 or Level 3.

#### 4. Net Position:

All of the College Savings Funds' fiduciary net position of \$11.0 billion and \$10.2 billion as of June 30, 2023 and 2022, respectively, are net position held in trust on behalf of investors in the College Savings Funds.

All of ABLE fiduciary net position of \$24.2 million as of June 30, 2023, are net position held in trust on behalf of investors in ABLE.

#### 5. Intraplan Administrative Fee Transfers:

CollegeInvest may receive an administrative fee at an annual rate of up to 0.99% of the average daily net assets of SVP, and up to 0.10% of the average daily net assets of SCF, DPF and SCCS. These fees are deducted monthly from each fund and are used by CollegeInvest for the payment of administrative expenses incurred by CollegeInvest in connection with the operation of the College Savings Program in accordance with and as permitted by applicable law. From July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023, the fee for SVP was 0.71%, 0.10% for SCCS, and 0.06% for SCF and DPF.

During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, DPF transferred \$422,000 to SCF, SVP transferred \$270,000 to SCF, and SCCS transferred \$17,000 to SCF for the excess of fees collected over expenses.

## College Savings Program Funds & Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund

Notes To Financial Statements June 30, 2023 and 2022

#### 5. Intraplan Administrative Fee Transfers (continued):

During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022, DPF transferred \$1.0 million to SCF, SVP transferred \$490,000 to SCF, and SCCS transferred \$35,000 to SCF for the excess of fees collected over expenses.

#### 6. Capital Markets:

During the last several years, financial markets as a whole have incurred significant fluctuations in values. Because the values of individual investments fluctuate with market conditions, the amount of investment gains or losses that the plan will recognize in its future financial statements, if any, cannot be determined.



## 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

Members of the Board of Directors and Legislative Audit Committee:

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 CollegeInvest's (a division of the Department of Higher Education, State of Colorado) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise CollegeInvest's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated December 8, 2023.

#### **Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered CollegeInvest's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of CollegeInvest's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of CollegeInvest'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 or significant deficiencies may exist that have not been identified.

#### **Report on Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether CollegeInvest'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 financial statements. 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 CollegeInvest'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.

Denver, Colorado December 8, 2023

Esde Saelly LLP



## Independent Auditor's Communication to the Board Members of CollegeInvest and Legislative Audit Committee

Members of the Board of Directors and Legislative Audit Committee,

We have audited the financial statements of CollegeInvest as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023 and have issued our report thereon dated December 8, 2023. Professional standards require that we advise you of the following matters relating to our audit.

## Our Responsibility in Relation to the Financial Statement Audit under Generally Accepted Auditing Standards and Government Auditing Standards

As communicated in our letter dated May 24, 2023, our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to form and express an opinion about whether the financial statements that have been prepared by management with your oversight are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve you or management of your respective responsibilities.

Our responsibility, as prescribed by professional standards, is to plan and perform our audit to obtain reasonable, rather than absolute, assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit of financial statements includes consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing 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 over financial reporting. Accordingly, as part of our audit, we considered the internal control of the CollegeInvest solely for the purpose of determining our audit procedures and not to provide any assurance concerning such internal control.

We are also responsible for communicating significant matters related to the audit that are, in our professional judgment, relevant to your responsibilities in overseeing the financial reporting process. However, we are not required to design procedures for the purpose of identifying other matters to communicate to you.

#### **Planned Scope and Timing of the Audit**

We conducted our audit consistent with the planned scope and timing we previously communicated.

#### **Compliance with All Ethics Requirements Regarding Independence**

The engagement team, others in our firm, as appropriate, our firm, and other firms utilized in the engagement, if applicable, have complied with all relevant ethical requirements regarding independence.

#### **Significant Risks Identified**

As stated in our auditor's report, professional standards require us to design our audit to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free of material misstatement whether caused by fraud or error. In designing our audit procedures, professional standards require us to evaluate the financial statements and assess the risk that a material misstatement could occur. Areas that are potentially more susceptible to misstatements, and thereby require special audit considerations, are designated as "significant risks". We have identified the following as significant risks.

- Management override of controls Professional standards require auditors to address the
  possibility of management overriding controls, which is inherent to every entity. Accordingly, we
  identified as a significant risk that management of the organization may have the ability to
  override controls that the organization has implemented.
- Fair Value of Investments There is a risk that the fair value of investments could be misstated if the valuation to fair value is not completed or not completed accurately.
- Administrative Fees There is a risk that administrative fees are not being charged in accordance with set rates.
- Revenue Recognition Generally Accepted Auditing Standards require a presumed risk of improper revenue recognition, unless otherwise noted. We identified improper revenue recognition as an identified fraud risk due to the possibility that revenue is not recorded appropriately such as in the wrong period, in the incorrect amount, etc. either due to error or fraud.
- Unauthorized Distributions The risk that distributions from participant accounts are not properly authorized.

#### **Qualitative Aspects of the Entity's Significant Accounting Practices**

#### Significant Accounting Policies

Management has the responsibility to select and use appropriate accounting policies. A summary of the significant accounting policies adopted by CollegeInvest is included in Note 1 to the financial statements. There have been no initial selection of accounting policies and no changes in significant accounting policies or their application during 2023. No matters have come to our attention that would require us, under professional standards, to inform you about (1) the methods used to account for significant unusual transactions and (2) the effect of significant accounting policies in controversial or emerging areas for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus.

#### Significant Accounting Estimates

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's current judgments. Those judgments are normally based on knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. 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 markedly from management's current judgments. No such significant accounting estimates were identified.

#### Financial Statement Disclosures

There were no financial statement disclosures that we consider to be particularly sensitive or involve significant judgement.

#### Significant Difficulties Encountered during the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management relating to the performance of the audit.

#### **Uncorrected and Corrected Misstatements**

For purposes of this communication, professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that we believe are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Further, professional standards require us to also communicate the effect of uncorrected misstatements related to prior periods on the relevant classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures, and the financial statements as a whole. Uncorrected misstatements or matters underlying those uncorrected misstatements could potentially cause future-period financial statements to be materially misstated, even though the uncorrected misstatements are immaterial to the financial statements currently under audit. There were no corrected or uncorrected misstatements identified during the audit.

#### **Disagreements with Management**

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, concerning a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, which could be significant to the CollegeInvest's financial statements or the auditor's report. No such disagreements arose during the course of the audit.

#### Circumstances that Affect the Form and Content of the Auditor's Report

We have made the following modification to our auditor's report, related to CollegeInvest's relationship with the State of Colorado:

As discussed in Note 1 – Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies, the financial statements of CollegeInvest are intended to present the fiduciary net position, and the changes in fiduciary net position, for only that portion of the financial reporting entity, State of Colorado, that is attributable to the transactions of the CollegeInvest College Savings Program Funds and Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Fund. They do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the fiduciary financial position of the State of Colorado as of June 30, 2023 and 2022, and the changes in its fiduciary financial position, or where applicable, its cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

#### **Representations Requested from Management**

We have requested certain written representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated December 8, 2023.

#### **Management's Consultations with Other Accountants**

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters. Management informed us that, and to our knowledge, there were no consultations with other accountants regarding auditing and accounting matters.

#### Other Significant Matters, Findings, or Issues

In the normal course of our professional association with the CollegeInvest we generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, significant events or transactions that occurred during the year, operating conditions affecting the entity, and operating plans and strategies that may affect the risks of material misstatement. None of the matters discussed resulted in a condition to our retention as CollegeInvest's auditors.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the CollegeInvest, the Board of Directors for CollegeInvest, management of CollegeInvest, the Legislative Audit Committee, and Office of the State Auditor, and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties. However, upon release by the Legislative Audit Committee, this report is a public document.

Denver, Colorado

Esde Saelly LLP

December 8, 2023