



BRIEFING SHEET

[Report 20-26](#)
December 2020

State Auditor
[Joe Chrisman](#)

State Investment Fund

Fiscal Year 2019-20

State of Wisconsin Investment Board

Background

As authorized by s. 25.14, Wis. Stats., the State of Wisconsin Investment Board (SWIB) manages the State Investment Fund. SWIB is governed by a nine-member Board of Trustees. Six of the trustees are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate to serve a six-year term; two of the trustees are participants in the Wisconsin Retirement System; and the Secretary of the Department of Administration or a designee also serves as a trustee.

The State Investment Fund invests the excess operating funds of State of Wisconsin agencies, the Wisconsin Retirement System, and the Wisconsin Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP). The LGIP is a voluntary option for local governments, such as counties, cities, villages, towns, and school districts. SWIB's investment objectives for the State Investment Fund are liquidity, safety of principal, and competitive rates of return. Although SWIB is responsible for State Investment Fund investment activities, the Department of Administration is responsible for distributing earnings to participants.

To fulfill our statutory requirements, we conducted a financial audit of the State Investment Fund by auditing the financial statements in accordance with applicable government auditing standards, issuing our auditor's opinion, and reviewing internal controls.

Audit Results

Our unmodified opinion on SWIB's State Investment Fund financial statements is included in SWIB's *State Investment Fund Annual Financial Report* for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020. We provide an unmodified opinion when audit evidence supports the conclusion that the financial statements provide a fair view of an entity's financial activity in accordance with government accounting standards. Our report includes the Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters.

Key Findings

On the basis of generally accepted accounting principles, the net position of the State Investment Fund increased from \$12.9 billion as of June 30, 2019, to \$16.0 billion as of June 30, 2020, or by \$3.1 billion. A large portion of this increase related to federal funding received by the State of Wisconsin and certain local governments under the federal *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act*.

Net investment income earned by the State Investment Fund decreased from \$257.5 million for the year ended June 30, 2019, to \$198.0 million for the year ended June 30, 2020. The decrease in investment income resulted from the significant decline in the federal funds rate during the fiscal year due to the economic downturn. The annual investment return for the State Investment Fund decreased from 2.33 percent for fiscal year (FY) 2018-19 to 1.45 percent for FY 2019-20.



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