

MONTANA

BOARD OF INVESTMENTS

BOARD ADOPTED POLICY

POLICY NUMBER: 40.939

EFFECTIVE DATE: November 30, 2021

TITLE: Investment Objectives and Guidelines
State Employee Group Benefits

SUPERSEDES: April 20, 2021

BOARD ADOPTION: November 30, 2021

REVIEWED:

I. Appendix II: Insurance Funds: Investment Objectives and Guidelines

- A. Schedule II-C: Investment Objectives and Guidelines State Employee Group Benefits.
- B. Approved Date of Schedule: April 5, 2017.
- C. This Schedule is effective upon adoption by the Board and supersedes all previous Investment Objectives and Guidelines for this specific portfolio.

II. Introduction

- A. The purpose of the investment objectives and guidelines is to provide a framework for the State Employee Group Benefits account under the guidance of the Board.
- B. The State Employee Group Benefits account was established under Section 2-18-808, MCA, "to establish a program under which the state may provide state employees with adequate group hospitalization, health, medical, disability, life, and other related group benefits in an efficient manner and at an affordable cost".

III. Statement of Purpose

- A. The purpose of these objectives and guidelines is to:
 1. Establish the investment objectives and performance standards of the State Employee Group Benefits account.
 2. Provide diversified investment exposure within the guidelines in a prudent and cost-effective manner.

IV. Investment Objective

- A. Strategic
 1. The objective of the State Employee Group Benefits portfolio is to attain above benchmark total return within the parameters of the Investment Guidelines set forth below with an emphasis on investment income and preservation of principal.
- B. Performance
 1. Success in achieving this objective will be measured by comparing the risk and return of the account to the Trust Funds Investment Pool (TFIP) benchmark, the Short-Term Investment Pool (STIP) benchmark, and the Bloomberg/Barclays 1-5 Year Treasury Index, each weighted proportionately to the portfolio's holdings, over a five (5) year moving average.

C. Time Horizon

1. State Employee Group Benefits is a permanent account. The Board expects to meet or exceed all objectives over a long-term investment horizon. Over shorter periods, the anticipated market volatility, and specific actions, including risk mitigation efforts of the Board may lead to unfavorable, but expected deviation from these objectives.

D. Investment Guidelines

1. The Board will have full discretion to manage the State Employee Group Benefits portfolio consistent with the investment guidelines stated below. Compliance with the following guidelines for permitted investments and other restrictions is the sole responsibility of the Staff. Any exceptions or compliance violations are to be reported to the Board at the next scheduled quarterly Board meeting.

E. Permitted Investments

1. The State Employee Group Benefits may only invest in the following:
 - a) Debt obligations of the U.S. Government, including its agencies and instrumentalities.
 - b) TFIP.
 - c) STIP or any cash vehicle at the Custodial Bank.

F. Other Restrictions

1. A maximum of fifty percent (50%) of the market value of the portfolio will be invested in U.S. Government/U.S. Agency securities.
2. U.S. Government/U.S. Agency securities will have a maximum maturity of five (5) years.
3. A maximum of forty percent (40%) of the market value of the portfolio will be invested in the TFIP.
4. A minimum of \$10 million will be invested in the STIP.

- G. If at any time, due to market fluctuations or any other circumstances, any of the guidelines are not maintained, Staff will use its best efforts to conform to these limits in a timely manner, while considering current market conditions and the associated costs of rebalancing. At the Board's next regularly scheduled quarterly meeting, the CIO shall inform the Board of any cases that the allocations were outside the limits and either inform the Board of the actions that were taken to return the portfolio back within guidelines or a plan to do so.

Authority: Montana Constitution, Article VIII, Section 13
Section 2-18-808, MCA
Section 2-15-1808, MCA
Section 17-1-113, MCA
Sections 17-6-201 through 17-6-205, MCA