



ASSET ALLOCATION REVIEW

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT
ASSOCIATION

MAY 21, 2026

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TODAY'S AGENDA

- **Review SBCERA Expected Risk and Return as of March 31, 2026**
- **Asset Allocation Alternatives**
- **Asset Allocation Recommendation**
- **Appendix: Review of Asset Allocation Process**

SBCERA CURRENT ASSET ALLOCATION

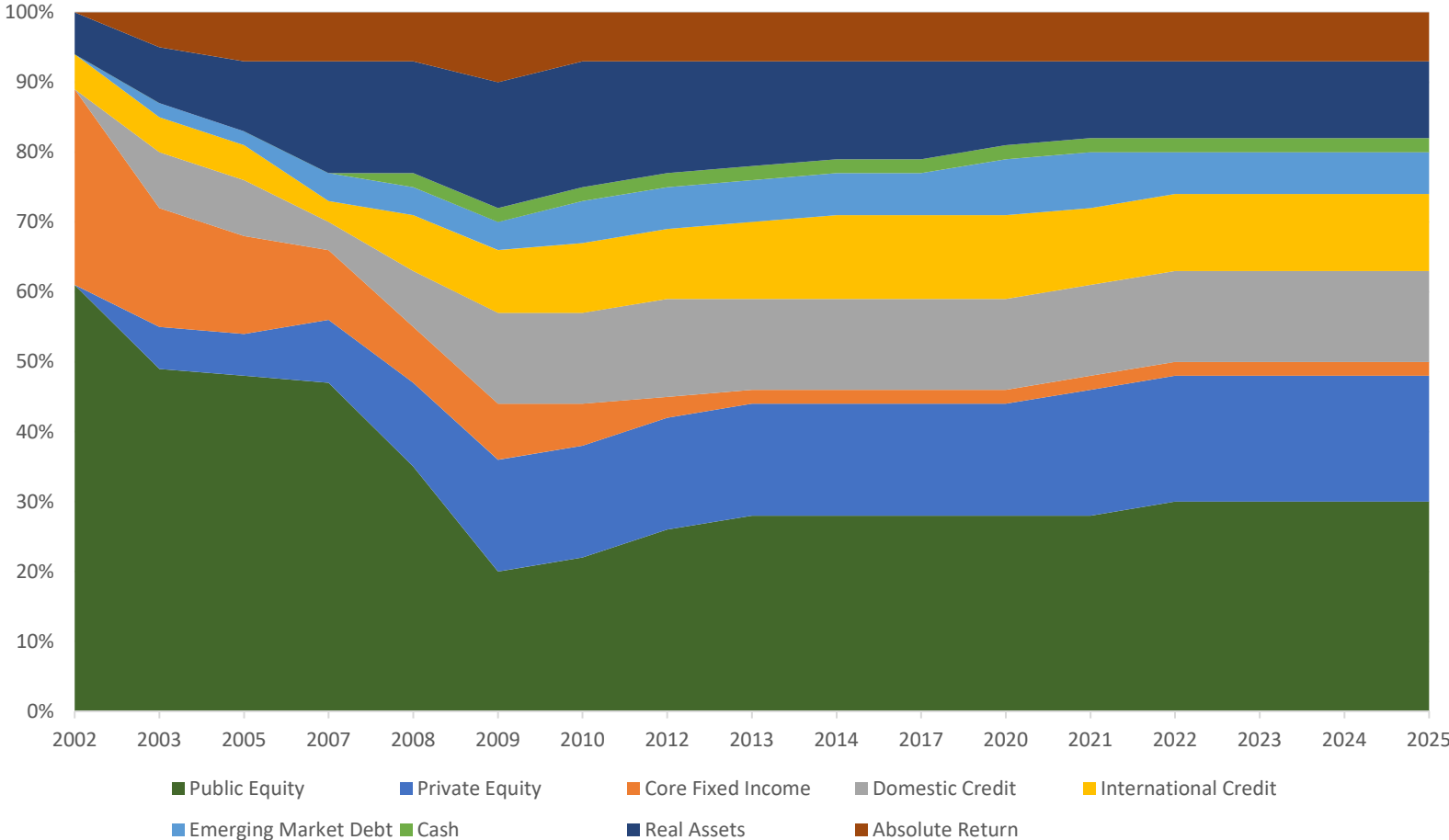


ASSET ALLOCATION

POLICY TARGETS, RANGES AND INDEXES

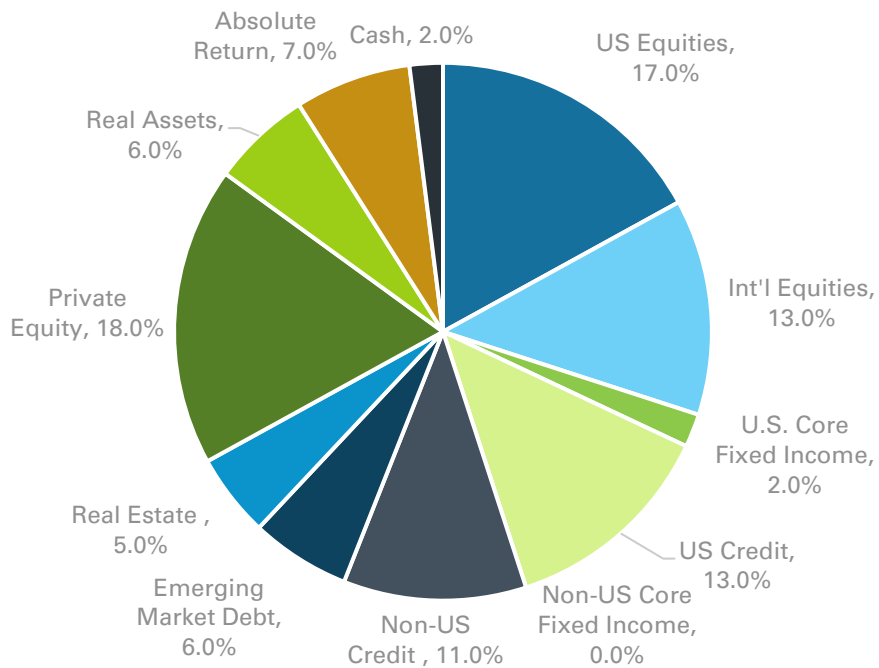
Asset Class	Policy Target	Range	Benchmark
Domestic Equities	17.00%	10% – 27%	Russell 3000 Index
Passive Large Cap	14.50%	0% – 20%	
Passive Small Cap	2.50%	-3% – 7%	
International Equities	13.00%	8% – 18%	MSCI ACWI ex USA Index
Developed Market	7.00%	1% – 12%	
Emerging Market Equity	6.00%	1% – 11%	
US Fixed Income	15.00%	10% – 20%	Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index
US Core Fixed Income	2.00%	-3% – 7%	
High Yield/Credit Strategies	13.00%	8% – 18%	
Global Fixed Income	17.00%	11% – 21%	Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond ex US Index
International Core Fixed Income	0.00%	-5% – 5%	
International Credit	11.00%	6% – 16%	
Emerging Market Debt	6.00%	1% – 10%	
Real Estate	5.00%	0% – 10%	NCREIF Property Index
Core	2.50%	0% – 5%	
Non-Core	2.50%	0% – 5%	
Real Assets	6.00%	0% – 10%	67% S&P GSCI + 33% BBG US TIPS Index
Commodities	4.00%	-1% – 7%	
Infrastructure	2.00%	0% – 6%	
Private Equity	18.00%	6% – 23%	Russell 3000 Index
Absolute Return	7.00%	0% – 12%	Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index
Cash	2.00%	0% – 10%	91 Day T-Bill Index

HISTORICAL POLICY ALLOCATION



SBCERA RETURN AND RISK EXPECTATIONS

USING MARCH 31, 2026 CAPITAL MARKET ASSUMPTIONS



	10 Year		30 Year	
	2026	2025	2026	2025
Expected Return	7.4%	8.1%	8.8%	9.0%
Expected Volatility	10.9%	10.7%	10.9%	10.7%
Sharpe Ratio	0.32	0.38	0.49	0.51

Probabilities using 2026 Assumptions	
Probability of 1-Year Return Under 0.00%	24.8%
Probability of 10 Year Return Under 0.00%	1.6%
Probability of 10 Year Return Under 7.25%	48.5%
Probability of 30-Year Return Under 7.25%	21.7%

Note:

Return and risk expectations are based on NEPC capital market assumptions as of 3/31/26 and 3/31/25.

Expected volatility assumptions are based on smoothed volatilities in private markets asset classes.



ASSET ALLOCATION ALTERNATIVES



ASSET ALLOCATION ALTERNATIVES

FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY

Exhibit A Page 8

	Current Policy	Increase Illiquidity	Increase Equities	Glide Path via Equity Reduction	Balanced Approach to Glide Path	70/30
Cash	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	0.0%
Total Cash	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	0.0%
US Large-Cap Equity	14.5%	13.5%	16.5%	13.5%	13.5%	0.0%
US Small/Mid-Cap Equity	2.5%	2.5%	3.5%	2.5%	2.5%	0.0%
Non-US Developed Equity	7.0%	7.0%	7.0%	7.0%	7.0%	0.0%
Emerging Market Equity	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	5.0%	6.0%	0.0%
Global Equity	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	70.0%
Non-US Private Equity	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	0.0%
Private Equity	16.0%	17.0%	15.0%	15.0%	16.0%	0.0%
Total Equity	48.0%	48.0%	50.0%	45.0%	47.0%	70.0%
US Aggregate Bond	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	30.0%
Emerging Market External Debt	6.0%	5.0%	6.0%	6.0%	5.0%	0.0%
Private Debt	31.0%	32.0%	30.0%	31.0%	30.0%	0.0%
US Long-Term Government/Credit	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.0%	3.0%	0.0%
Total Fixed Income	39.0%	39.0%	38.0%	42.0%	40.0%	30.0%
Real Estate - Core	2.5%	2.0%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	0.0%
Real Estate - Non-Core	2.5%	3.0%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	0.0%
Private Real Assets - Natural Resources	6.0%	6.0%	5.0%	6.0%	6.0%	0.0%
Total Real Assets	11.0%	11.0%	10.0%	11.0%	11.0%	0.0%
Expected Return 10 yrs	7.37%	7.44%	7.28%	7.37%	7.36%	5.52%
Expected Return 30 yrs	8.80%	8.86%	8.71%	8.75%	8.77%	6.99%
Standard Dev	10.85%	10.78%	11.08%	10.40%	10.61%	13.12%
Sharpe Ratio (10 years)	0.322	0.330	0.307	0.335	0.328	0.125
Sharpe Ratio (30 years)	0.488	0.496	0.470	0.504	0.497	0.266
Probability of 1-Year Return Under 0%	24.83%	24.52%	25.56%	23.95%	24.38%	33.70%
Probability of 10-Year Return Under 0%	1.58%	1.46%	1.89%	1.26%	1.41%	9.17%
Probability of 10-Year Return Under 7.25%	48.55%	47.83%	49.68%	48.59%	48.63%	66.19%
Probability of 30-Year Return Under 7.25%	21.74%	20.74%	23.48%	21.46%	21.56%	54.24%


Increase Illiquidity:
More PE, PD, and RE Non-Core


Increase Equities:
More US Equity, less private markets

Glide Path via Equity Reduction:
Add US Long-Term Gov/Credit allocation from equity reduction

Balanced Approach to Glide Path:
Add US Long-Term Gov/Credit allocation from equity and fixed income reduction

70/30:
ACWI mix at 70%

 Green shading denotes increase

 Orange shading denotes decrease

Note:

Return and risk expectations are based on NEPC capital market assumptions as of 3/31/26.

Expected volatility assumptions are based on smoothed volatilities in private markets asset classes.



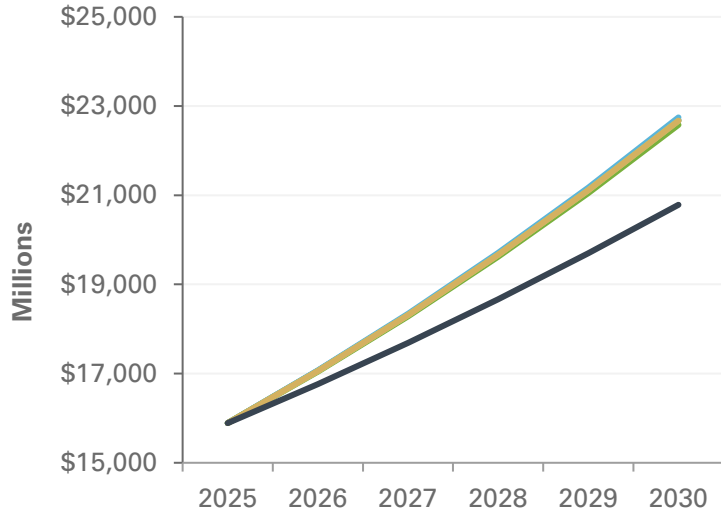
ASSET ALLOCATION ALTERNATIVES

RATIONALE

- Mix 1 (Increase Illiquids) – Increasing PE, PD, and RE, improves risk adjusted return profile (increases expected returns and sharpe ratio) and reduces drawdown risk, but only modestly.
- Mix 2 (Increase Equities)– Reducing illiquids to increase equities, diminishes risk adjusted return profile and increases drawdown risk.
- Mix 3 (Glide Path via Equity Reduction)– Reducing both public and private equities and reallocating to long duration credit modestly improves risk adjusted return profile and reduces funded status volatility, but possibly at risk of slowing funded status growth at critical juncture (currently 89% funded).
- Mix 4 (Glide Path via balanced approach) – A more balanced approach to a glide path (via reducing both equities and opportunistic credit) generates a similar outcome to mix C, but to a slightly lesser degree.

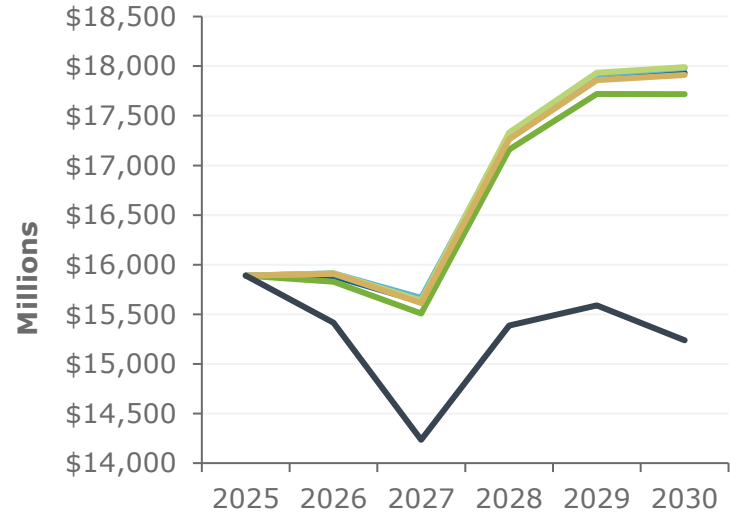
SCENARIO ANALYSIS

BASE CASE



- Current Policy
- Increase Illiquidity
- Increase Equities
- Glide Path via Equity Reduction
- Balanced Approach to Glide Path
- 70/30

STAGFLATION

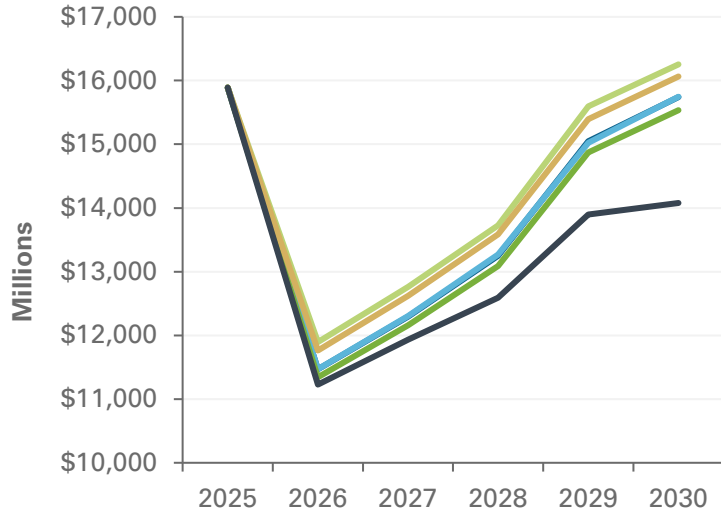


- Current Policy
- Increase Illiquidity
- Increase Equities
- Glide Path via Equity Reduction
- Balanced Approach to Glide Path
- 70/30



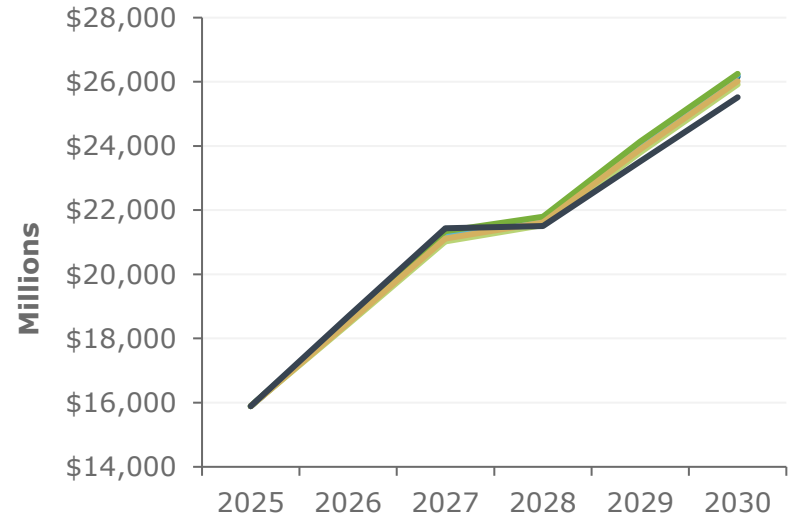
SCENARIO ANALYSIS

RECESSION



- Current Policy
- Increase Illiquidity
- Increase Equities
- Glide Path via Equity Reduction
- Balanced Approach to Glide Path
- 70/30

EXPANSION

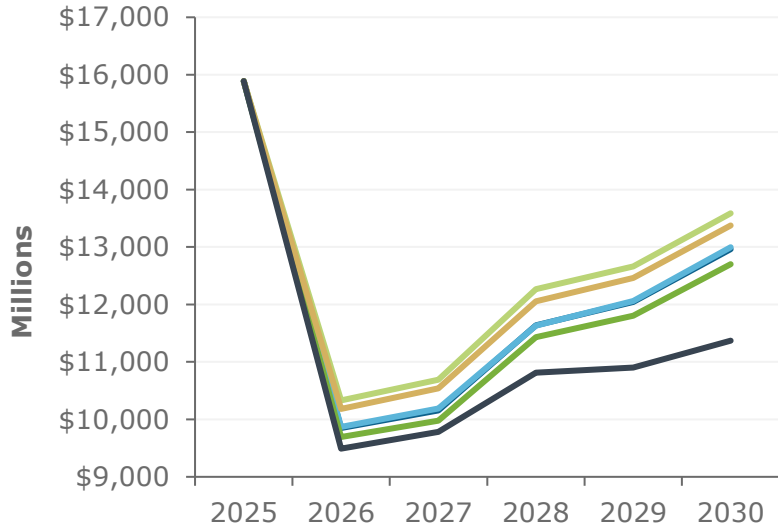


- Current Policy
- Increase Illiquidity
- Increase Equities
- Glide Path via Equity Reduction
- Balanced Approach to Glide Path
- 70/30



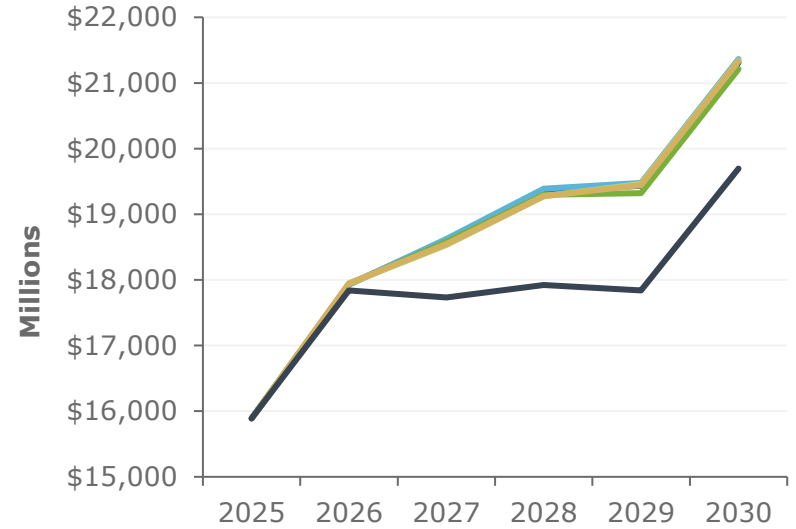
SCENARIO ANALYSIS

DEPRESSION



- Current Policy
- Increase Illiquidity
- Increase Equities
- Glide Path via Equity Reduction
- Balanced Approach to Glide Path
- 70/30

OVEREXTENSION



- Current Policy
- Increase Illiquidity
- Increase Equities
- Glide Path via Equity Reduction
- Balanced Approach to Glide Path
- 70/30



SCENARIO ANALYSIS: REGIME RETURNS

Expansion Scenario Returns*

Cash: 2.9%
 Treasuries: 5.0%
 Long Treasuries: 5.1%
 U.S. TIPS: 4.0%
 U.S. IG Credit: 6.4%
 High Yield Bonds: 7.7%
 U.S. Large-Cap Equity: 10.9%
 Emerging Market Equity: 16.0%
 Commodities: -2.1%

Stagflation Scenario Returns*

Cash: 6.3%
 Treasuries: 3.0%
 Long Treasuries: 1.5%
 U.S. TIPS: 9.7%
 U.S. IG Credit: 3.0%
 High Yield Bonds: 4.6%
 U.S. Large-Cap Equity: -1.8%
 Emerging Market Equity: -3.8%
 Commodities: 7.5%

Depression Scenario Returns*

Cash: 0.7%
 Treasuries: 5.9%
 Long Treasuries: 12.0%
 U.S. TIPS: 5.7%
 U.S. IG Credit: 6.4%
 High Yield Bonds: -1.2%
 U.S. Large-Cap Equity: -13.1%
 Emerging Market Equity: -39.0%
 Commodities: -4.5%

Recession Scenario Returns*

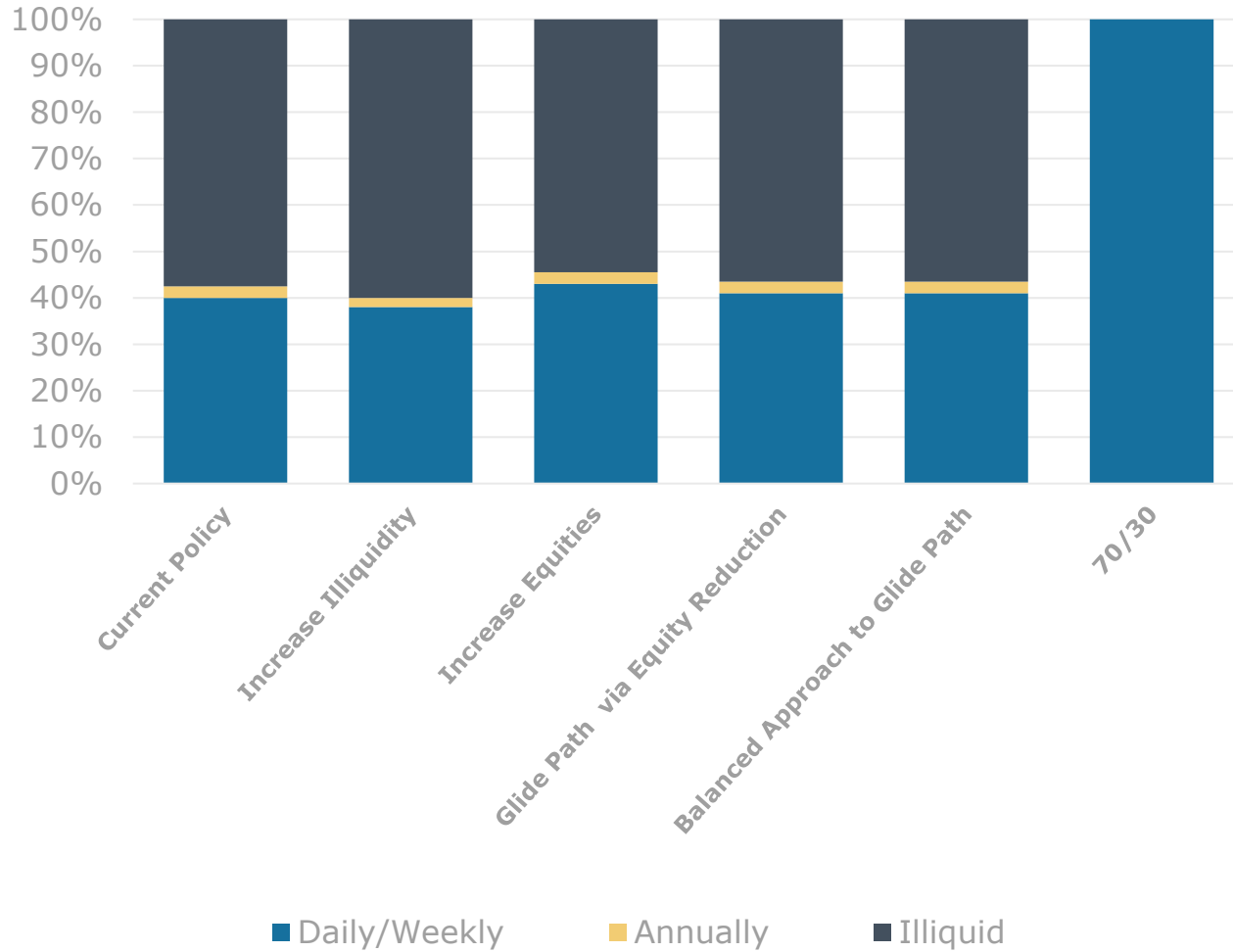
Cash: 1.1%
 Treasuries: 5.4%
 Long Treasuries: 10.6%
 U.S. TIPS: 5.1%
 U.S. IG Credit: 7.1%
 High Yield Bonds: 5.8%
 U.S. Large-Cap Equity: -6.7%
 Emerging Market Equity: -16.6%
 Commodities: -3.3%

Overextension Scenario Returns*

Cash: 5.3%
 Treasuries: 5.0%
 Long Treasuries: 5.9%
 U.S. TIPS: 7.6%
 U.S. IG Credit: 5.5%
 High Yield Bonds: 5.4%
 U.S. Large-Cap Equity: 3.9%
 Emerging Market Equity: 5.1%
 Commodities: 2.6%

Notes: *Scenario returns are 5-year annualized returns, as of 3/31/2026

LIQUIDITY PROFILES



Note: Liquidity is assigned at the asset class level.



RECOMMENDATION



RECOMMENDATION

	Current Policy / Recommended Allocation	70/30
Cash	2.0%	0.0%
Total Cash	2.0%	0.0%
US Large-Cap Equity	14.5%	0.0%
US Small/Mid-Cap Equity	2.5%	0.0%
Non-US Developed Equity	7.0%	0.0%
Emerging Market Equity	6.0%	0.0%
Global Equity	0.0%	70.0%
Non-US Private Equity	2.0%	0.0%
Private Equity	16.0%	0.0%
Total Equity	48.0%	70.0%
US Aggregate Bond	2.0%	30.0%
Emerging Market External Debt	6.0%	0.0%
Private Debt	31.0%	0.0%
US Long-Term Government/Credit	0.0%	0.0%
Total Fixed Income	39.0%	30.0%
Real Estate - Core	2.5%	0.0%
Real Estate - Non-Core	2.5%	0.0%
Private Real Assets - Natural Resources	6.0%	0.0%
Total Real Assets	11.0%	0.0%
Expected Return 10 yrs	7.37%	5.52%
Expected Return 30 yrs	8.80%	6.99%
Standard Dev	10.85%	13.12%
Sharpe Ratio (10 years)	0.322	0.125
Sharpe Ratio (30 years)	0.488	0.266
Probability of 1-Year Return Under 0%	24.83%	33.70%
Probability of 10-Year Return Under 0%	1.58%	9.17%
Probability of 10-Year Return Under 7.25%	48.55%	66.19%
Probability of 30-Year Return Under 7.25%	21.74%	54.24%

NEPC recommends staying with the current strategic asset allocation mix for the following reasons:

- a) More opportunistic mixes provide limited opportunities to improve upon the existing policy without dramatic shifts in allocations
- b) While a conservative glide path mix is likely to reduce funded status, it could also reduce funded status growth rate at a critical juncture. SBCERA should consider this at a future date, after further improvements in funded status.
- c) Staying the course now avoids unnecessary risk of lower future returns or contribution volatility.

APPENDIX: ASSET ALLOCATION OVERVIEW & EDUCATION



ASSET ALLOCATION DEFINED

- **The process of allocating assets across a spectrum of investments to achieve an expected return at an expected level of risk**
 - “Expected” is a statistics term, which is different from the common use of the word.
 - Expected return is the weighted average of all possible returns, where the weights are the probabilities that each return will occur.

- **Asset allocation decisions include, but are not limited to a choice between:**
 - Higher risk versus higher return
 - Equity/Bonds/Cash/RE/PE/HF/Commodities etc...
 - Domestic/International/Global
 - Liquid vs. illiquid or public vs. private assets
 - Ease of implementation (Simplicity vs. Complexity)

ASSET ALLOCATION CONSIDERATIONS

- **An appropriate asset mix will consider a Plan's**
 - Actuarial Return Assumption
 - Liability Awareness
 - Funded Status
 - Liquidity Needs
 - Time Horizon
 - Risk Tolerance
 - Peer Risk
 - Plan Provisions and Specifics
 - Staff Size and Expertise

ASSET ALLOCATION PROCESS

MEETING YOUR OBJECTIVES

- **Capital markets assumption**
 - Expected Return
 - Expected Risk (Volatility, Standard Deviation)
 - Expected Correlation
- **Project cash flow needs (Contributions – Expenses & Benefits)**
- **Integrate assets and liabilities/spending**
- **Risk Budgeting**
- **Scenario Analysis**
- **Liquidity Analysis**
- **Compare allocation to other programs**

ASSET ALLOCATION IMPLEMENTATION

- **Establish Targets and Ranges**

- Ranges should trigger rebalancing
- Helps plans sell high (expensive assets) and buy low (cheap assets)

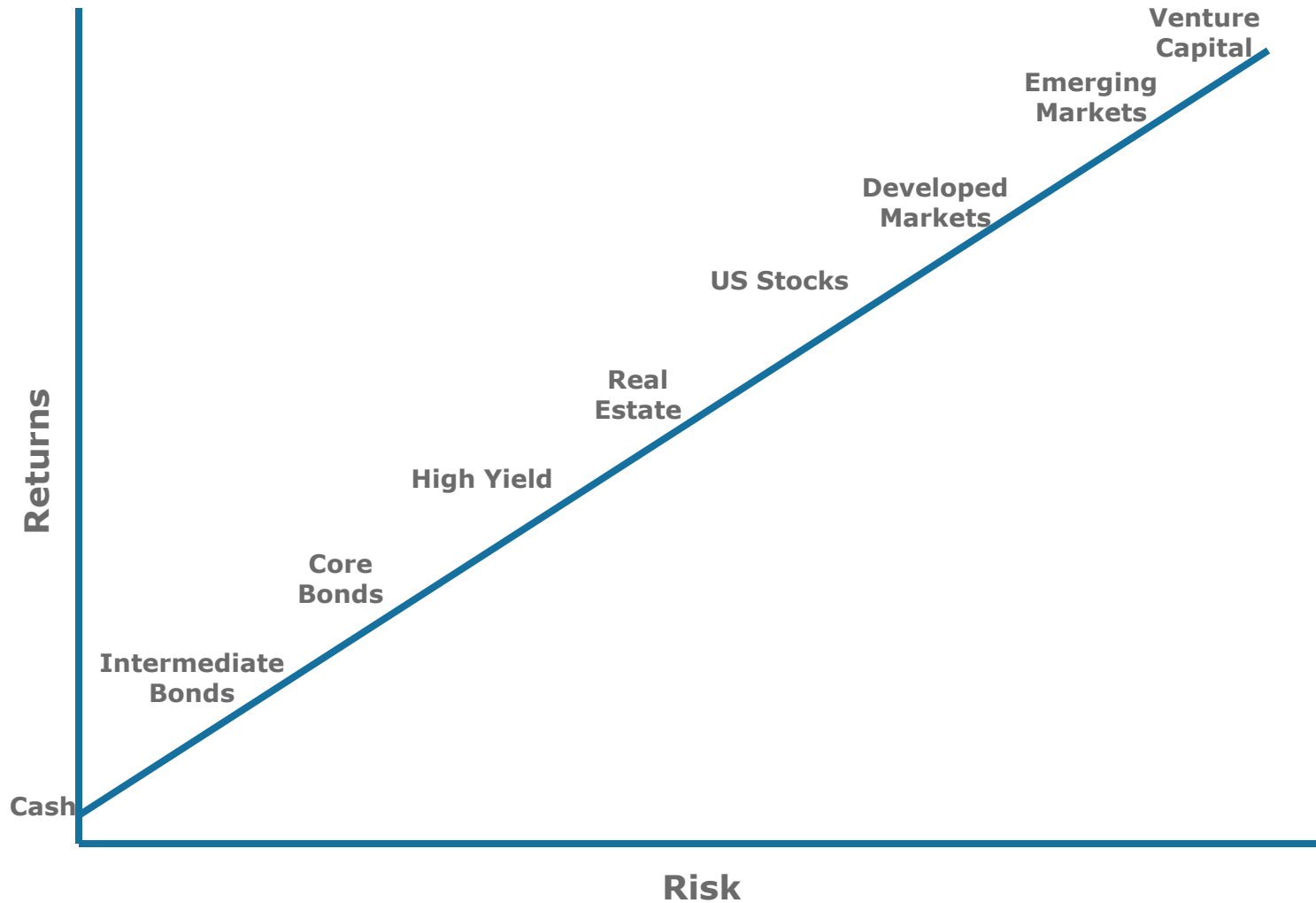
- **Establish Active versus Passive Mix**

- Should reflect net of fee return contribution
- Inefficient asset classes should be managed actively

- **Style Bias: *Should generally be avoided in efficient markets***

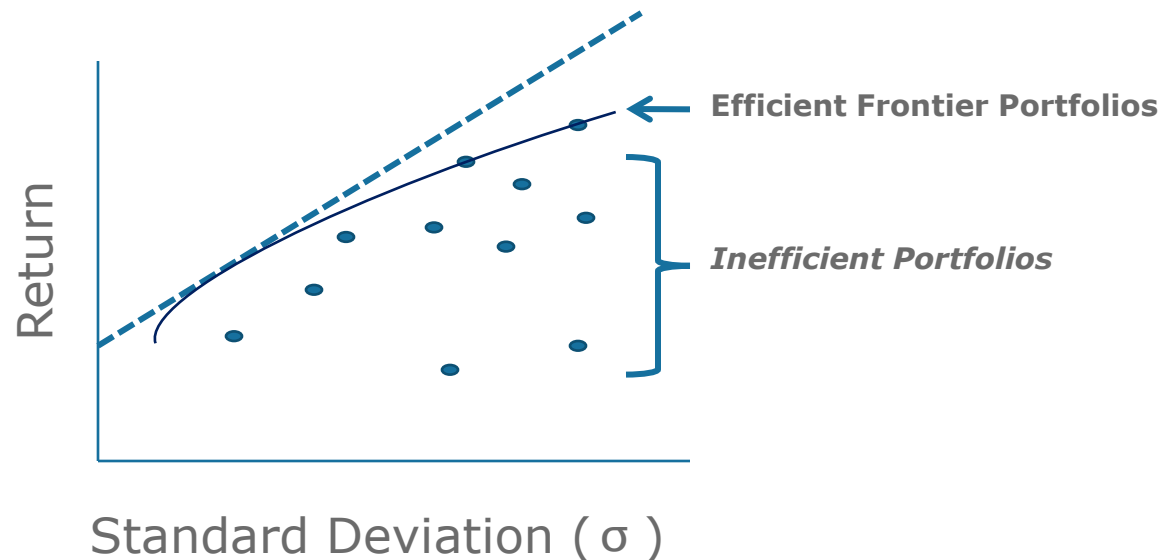
- Efficient Market Example: Large Cap US Stocks

CAPITAL MARKET LINE



ASSET ALLOCATION MODEL: MEAN-VARIANCE OPTIMIZATION

- **Mean-Variance Optimization: Asset allocation model based on Nobel-Prize winning theory**
- **Mathematical solution to determine the “best” mix of assets that will create an efficient frontier**
 - Highest return for expected risk (volatility), or
 - Lowest expected risk (volatility) for expected return
 - Stated another way, it builds portfolios with the highest expected risk-adjusted returns – Efficient Frontier:



ASSET ALLOCATION – ASSET LIABILITY MATCHING

- **Asset Liability Matching versus the “Horse Race”**

- Many Pension Funds spend a lot of time comparing their performance to their peers’
 - Almost always ignores liabilities
 - Disaggregates returns from risk
 - Assumes everyone should be getting the highest possible return
 - Should instead be focused on the ability to meet liability needs
- Diversification makes it harder to be the best performing fund in certain bull market periods

MODEL INPUTS

▪ **Permissible Asset Classes and Weighting Constraints**

- Constraints reflect liquidity, time horizon and marginal benefit analyses
 - Example: RE is constrained to 5-15%
- Not all asset classes may be permissible by some plans
(e.g. Private Equity, Peruvian Llama Futures)

▪ **Return and Risk Assumptions**

- Based on historic data, academic theory, and NEPC's assessment of current and future market conditions
- Risk measured by Standard Deviation (volatility)

▪ **Correlation Assumptions**

- Measure of similarity/dissimilarity between asset class returns
- Based on historic data

RETURNS (ARITHMETIC & GEOMETRIC)

- **Arithmetic – simple average of annual returns**

- Example

- Year 1: 10%
 - Year 2: -4%
 - Year 3: 15%
 - Average (arithmetic) return is 7% (21% cumulative divided by 3 years)

- **Geometric – Our reports reflect compounding of annual returns**

- Example

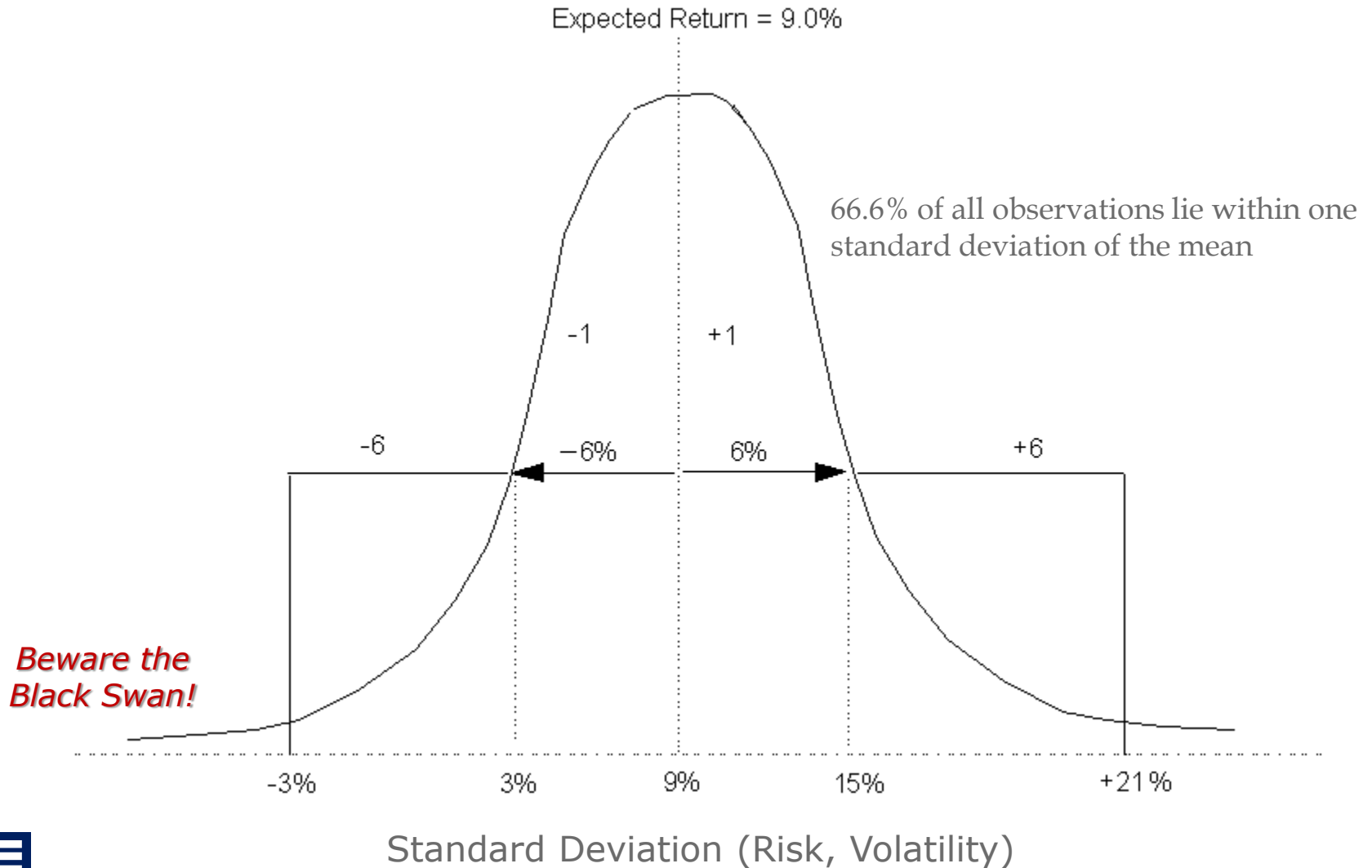
- Year 1: 10%
 - Year 2: -4%
 - Year 3: 15%
 - Compounded annualized (geometric) return is 6.69%

- **Geometric returns are always less than arithmetic returns**

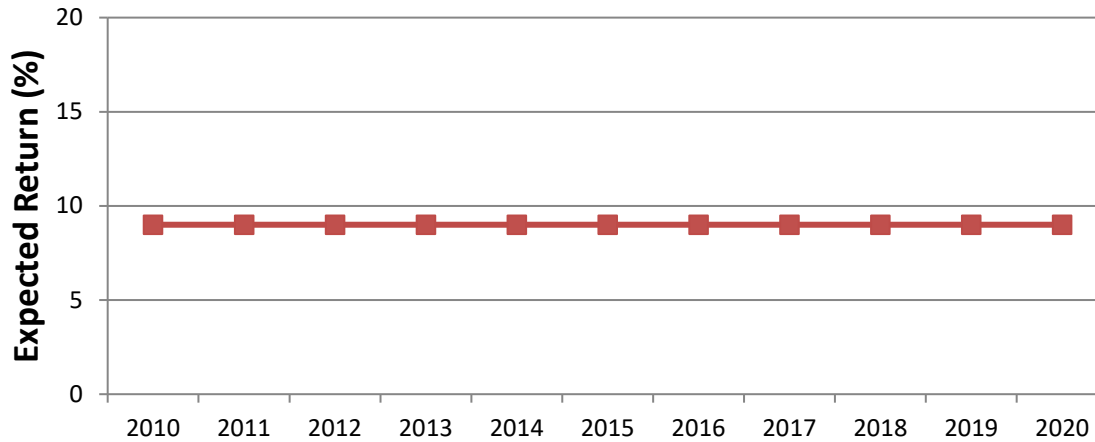
- Reflects the fact that a given loss (say 10%) is worse than its equivalent gain
 - For example, you start with \$100 and lose 50%. You now have \$50. To get back to \$100, you will need to earn 100%

VOLATILITY

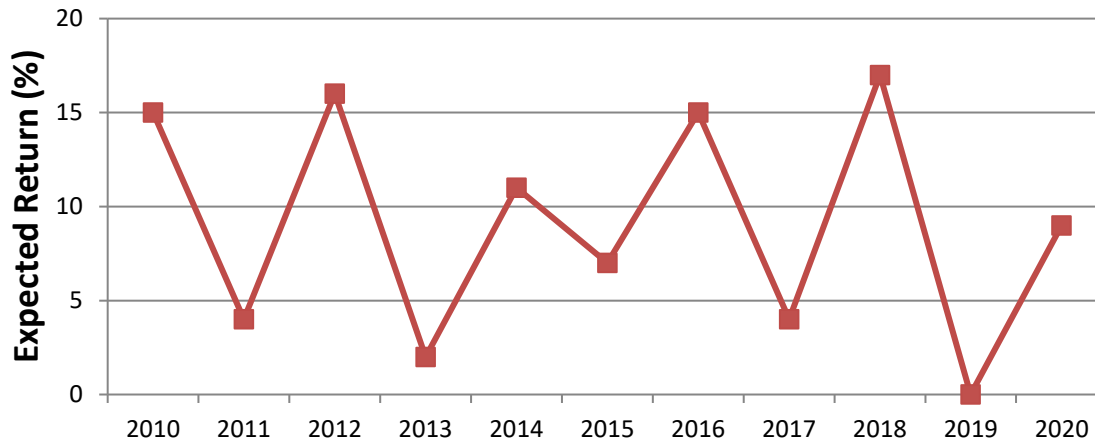
THE BELL CURVE - ONE STANDARD DEVIATION



WHICH PATTERN WOULD YOU CHOOSE?



Average Return = 9.0%
Standard Deviation = 0%



Average Return = 9.0%
Standard Deviation = 6.0%



STANDARD DEVIATION NOTES

- **Concept: Average deviation from the mean**
- **Standard Deviation is not all risk**
- **Most asset class returns approximate a Bell Curve (normal distribution)**
 - But not a perfect fit.
 - Expected Pension Returns (Q2 2020 Assumptions)

Return = 6.5%

Volatility = 12.4%

1StDev: 68% of the observations will be between -5.6% and 19.6%

2StDev: 95% of the observations will be between -18.2% and 32.2%

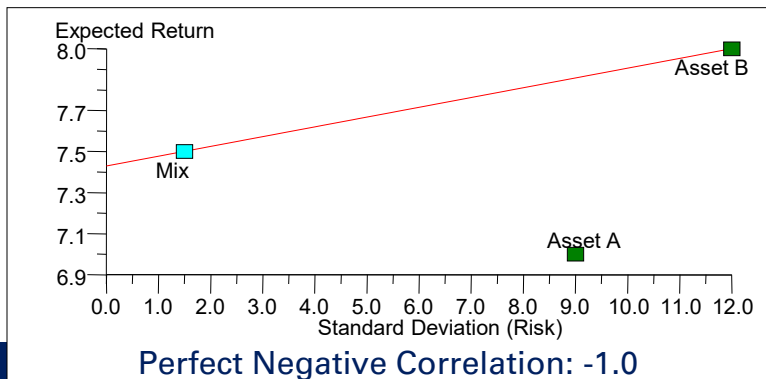
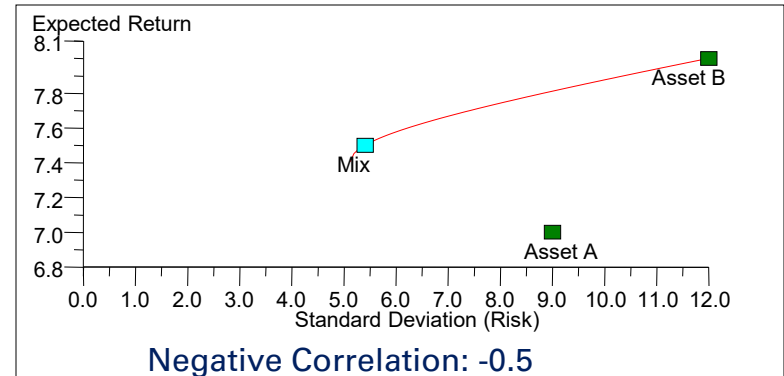
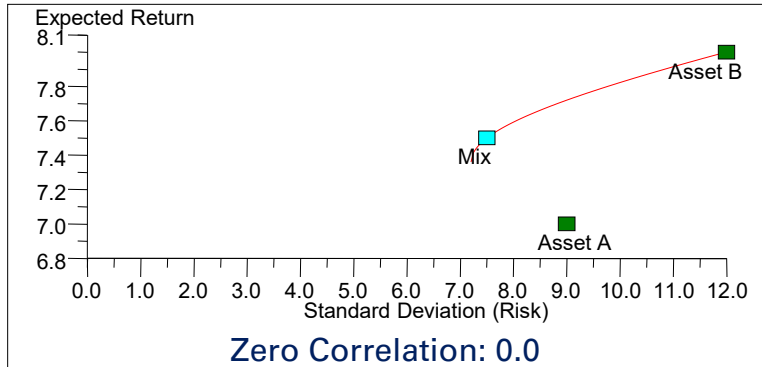
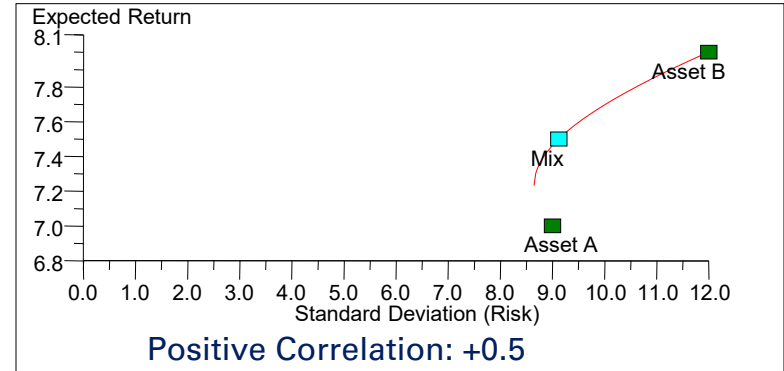
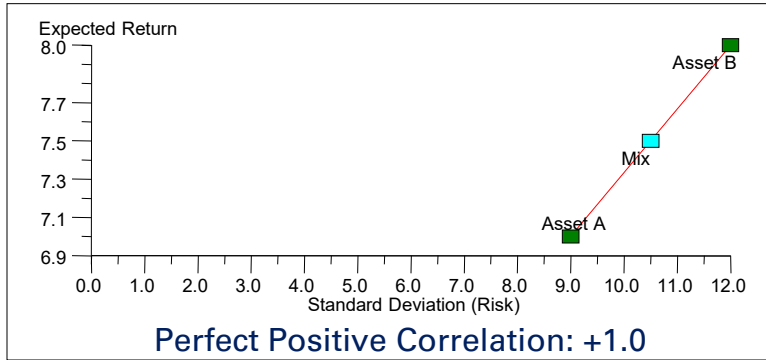
3StDev: 99% of the observations will be between -30.8% and 44.8%

CORRELATION

- **Measures how two things vary relative to each other**
- **Scale is from -1.0 to 1.0**
 - +1.0 is perfect correlation
 - The two things behave exactly alike
 - 0.0 indicates no correlation
 - 1.0 is perfect negative correlation
 - The two things behave exactly opposite of each other
 - One goes up while the other goes down
- **Partial Correlation is common**
- **Correlations between assets are very important in the asset allocation process**
 - Combining unlike assets lessens portfolio volatility

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
A	20%	-5%	0%
B	-10%	15%	10%
Portfolio	10%	10%	10%

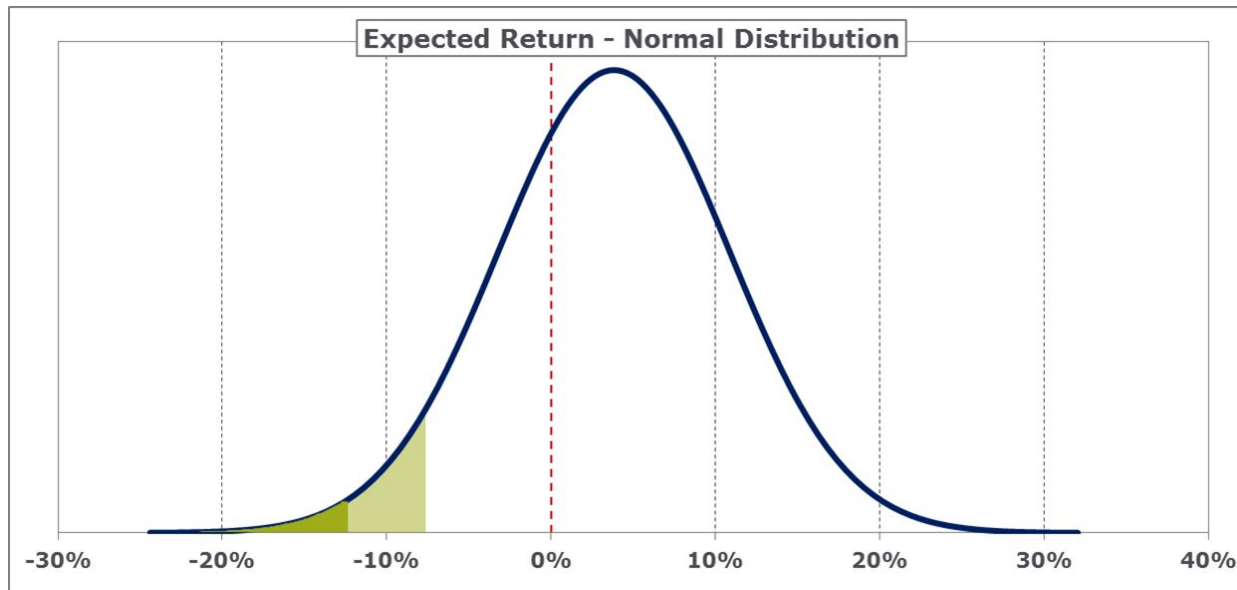
CORRELATION ILLUSTRATIONS



- The lower the correlation, the greater the risk reduction

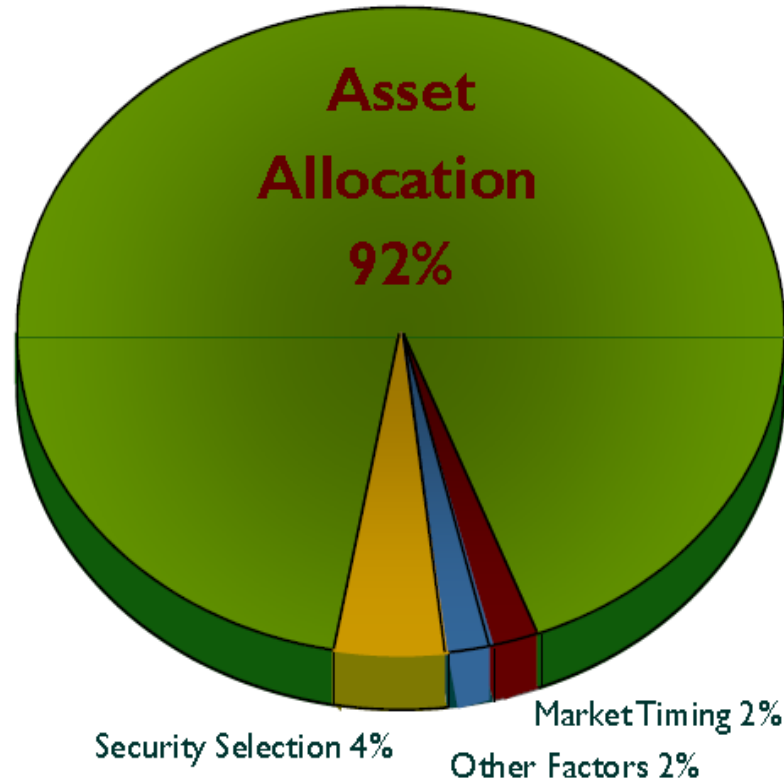
CORRELATION NOTES

- **Correlations are normally fairly stable**
- **Market crisis: Correlations move toward 1**
 - Diversification fails when you need it most; tail risk



ASSET ALLOCATION: THE KEY INVESTMENT DECISION

Determinants of Portfolio Performance



Source: *Determinants of Portfolio Performance II: An Update*, Brinson, et al, *Financial Analysts Journal*, May/June 1991, pp 40-48.

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Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

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Information on market indices was provided by sources external to NEPC. While NEPC has exercised reasonable professional care in preparing this report, we cannot guarantee the accuracy of all source information contained within.

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