



from the NEST

IN THIS ISSUE

Review Available
Investment Options

How to Use GiftED

Tax Season Tip

Update Your
Contact Information

Here's How to Grow
Your Savings

True or False?
College Savings Edition

► Soaring to new heights.

A MESSAGE FROM THE NEBRASKA STATE TREASURER

I am excited to share that we began giving each Nebraska child born in 2020 a \$50 Meadowlark Savings Pledge account contribution. This program is a starting point for families as they begin their educational savings journey and help set their child up to soar.



Meadowlark
SAVINGS PLEDGE

Qualifying Meadowlark participants should have already received an announcement letter sharing details; more information about the program can be found at NEST529.com/Meadowlark. Enacted by the State Legislature and signed into law by the Governor in 2019, Meadowlark is designed to help Nebraska families pay for future educational expenses. Each eligible child is automatically enrolled in Meadowlark (no extra costs or paperwork required) with funds being contributed the year following their birth.

Beneficiaries under the age of 30 who pursue higher education within the state will have access to these funds for qualified expenses. Meadowlark accounts will be owned by the Nebraska Educational Savings Plan Trust, but families can continue investing in their child's future by opening a NEST 529 account. These accounts give families the opportunity to consistently contribute funds, which can be tax-deductible and can grow over time. Meadowlark and NEST savings accounts are an easy way to put them on the right track now.

Our team is here to help you navigate the financial savings journey. Start planning for your child's future today at NEST529.com.

NEST 529
EDUCATION SAVINGS

Set them up to soar.

888.993.3746 | NEST529.com

Time for a savings flyover.

REVIEW AVAILABLE INVESTMENT OPTIONS

Now that the busy holiday season is behind us, you may have a moment to consider how your NEST dollars are being invested, and how it's working for you. One of the great advantages of NEST 529 is the ability to choose from three categories of Investment Options. Having more choices means you get to invest your way. Take a look at your options below. If you decide to make a change, you can do so from your online account in minutes.

SET IT AND FORGET IT



... ➤ **Age-Based:** Pick from our index or multi-firm options based on your risk tolerance — conservative, moderate, or aggressive. Then, our expert investment managers will select underlying funds and the mix of asset classes. As the beneficiary gets older, your portfolio will shift to become more conservative.



... ➤ **Static:** This is a fixed investment allocation throughout the life of your account. Unlike Age-Based, Static options do not shift to a different allocation mix as your beneficiary approaches college age.



... ➤ **Individual:** Build your own portfolio from 15 Individual Fund Investment Options to accommodate your own needs, risk tolerance, and investment style.

YOU CALL THE SHOTS

Get some help building your nest.

HOW TO USE GiftED

Grandma and grandpa want to throw a little something in the college fund? Using NEST 529's convenient GiftED tool, anyone — family, or friends who feel like family — can contribute to a NEST 529 account. Here's how it works:

{ 1 }

From your NEST online profile, you send an email invitation to whomever wants to contribute.

{ 2 }

That person receives an email with a link to gift any amount directly to your account via electronic bank transfer.

{ 3 }

The gifter submits the contribution, and it's sent directly to your account for your student's future.

Dropping the hint about college savings gifts is easier than you think. Next time you and a family member or friend are chatting about your child's future — at a baby shower, a birthday, or other event — mention that you're using NEST 529 to meet a savings goal for their education fund. After hearing that you have a plan, many loved ones will be all too happy to help make it happen.

Make the most of your refund.

TAX SEASON TIP

Once you've filed your 2020 taxes, consider turning your refund into college savings by transferring all or part of it into your NEST 529 account. Remember, funds grow tax-deferred and are tax-free when used for qualified expenses.¹



True or False? College Savings Edition

PUT YOUR NEST 529 KNOWLEDGE TO THE TEST WITH THIS SHORT QUIZ

1 When attending a qualified college, NEST 529 funds can be used for tuition and fees, books, supplies, equipment required for enrollment, a computer and printer.¹

True False

2 Room and board expenses are qualified expenses if the beneficiary is enrolled at least half-time.¹

True False

3 My child's dream college across the country just accepted them. Thankfully, NEST 529 funds can be applied to help with out-of-state tuition.

True False

4 My NEST 529 balance must be used by the time my child reaches the age of 45.

True False

5 My child wants a new laptop for college. Funds from NEST 529 can pay for it.¹

True False

Check your answers on the back.



Let's stay in touch.

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Keeping your address and other contact information current ensures you always receive NEST 529 news. Head to your online account now to make any necessary changes.

College costs are rising. What will that mean for you?

HERE'S HOW TO GROW YOUR SAVINGS

In 2020-2021, the average published tuition and fee price for full-time in-state students at a public four-year institution was \$10,560 – more than twice as expensive as 20 years ago.* With the cost of college likely to keep rising, the best way to prepare is to continue contributing to your NEST 529 account and taking advantage of the benefits it has to offer, so your future student can reach their goals. Reduce college debt now by setting up recurring contributions (also called an "Automatic Investment Plan" or AIP) for your NEST 529 account. These contributions are an easy way to continue investing.

Learn how to maximize your investment at [NEST529.com/contributions](https://www.nest529.com/contributions).

*Source: Ma, Jennifer, Matea Pender, and CJ Libassi (2020), *Trends in College Pricing and Student Aid 2020*, New York; College Board.

An investor should consider the investment objectives, risks, and charges and expenses associated with municipal fund securities before investing. This and other important information is contained in the fund prospectuses and the NEST Direct College Savings Plan Program Disclosure Statement (issuer's official statement), which should be read carefully before investing. You can lose money by investing in an Investment Option. Each of the Investment Options involves investment risks, which are described in the Program Disclosure Statement.

An investor should consider, before investing, whether the investor's or beneficiary's home state offers any state tax or other state benefits such as financial aid, scholarship funds, and protection from creditors that are only available for investments in such state's 529 plan. Investors should consult their tax advisor, attorney, and/or other advisor regarding their specific legal, investment, or tax situation.

The NEST Direct College Savings Plan (the "Plan") is sponsored by the State of Nebraska, administered by the Nebraska State Treasurer, and the Nebraska Investment Council provides investment oversight. Union Bank and Trust serves as Program Manager for the Plan. The Plan offers a series of Investment Options within the Nebraska Educational Savings Plan Trust (the "Trust"), which offers other Investment Options not affiliated with the Plan. The Plan is intended to operate as a qualified tuition program.

Except for any investments made by an account owner in the Bank Savings Static Investment Option up to the limit provided by Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC") insurance, neither the principal contributed to an account, nor earnings thereon, are guaranteed or insured by the State of Nebraska, the Nebraska State Treasurer, the Nebraska Investment Council, the Trust, the Plan, any other state, any agency or instrumentality thereof, Union Bank and Trust Company, the FDIC, or any other entity. Investment returns are not guaranteed. Account owners assume all investment risk, including the potential loss of principal.

¹Withdrawals used to pay for qualified higher education expenses are free from federal and Nebraska state income tax. Qualified higher education expenses include tuition, fees, books, supplies, and equipment required for enrollment or attendance; certain room and board expenses incurred by students who are enrolled at least half-time; the purchase of computer or peripheral equipment, computer software, or Internet access and related services, if used primarily by the beneficiary during any of the years the beneficiary is enrolled at an eligible educational institution; and certain expenses for special needs services needed by a special needs beneficiary.

Not FDIC Insured¹ / No Bank Guarantee / May Lose Value
(*Except the Bank Savings Static Investment Option Underlying Investment)

