



Important Changes are coming to the Bright Start 529 College Savings Plan



Beginning September 25, 2024, the Bright Start Direct-Sold College Savings Program (Bright Start 529), will transition to a new program manager.

With this transition, you'll experience:

- Lower Fees
- Investment Menu Updates
- Modern Account Management

What Do You Need To Do?

Your account information, including all activity prior to the transition, your investment portfolio(s) and account preferences will automatically transition to the new account management system. **However, please be aware of the important transition dates and required action outlined below.**

It is important that you read the [Transition Guide](#) and updated [Plan Description](#) carefully as it outlines differences between the pre- and post-transition plan, important dates, common questions, the mapping of your investment portfolios, and required action.

After the transition is complete, you will receive a final statement by mail reflecting your ending balance under the current program manager. You will also receive an opening account activity notification by mail, or email if you have elected e-delivery, providing your new account number and confirming the purchase of your new Bright Start 529 units under the new plan manager.

Update Payroll Instructions

If you currently contribute to your account through payroll, you need to update your payroll instructions with your employer to ensure continuation of your contribution. In September, a letter was mailed to payroll contributors providing direction for updating payroll instructions. If you are a State of Illinois employee, you were not sent this communication as any necessary changes will be made with your employer directly and no action is necessary.

Important Dates

- Wednesday, September 25, 2024**
 - Preparation for the transition begins.
 - No transaction or maintenance requests, including withdrawals, contributions or account changes will be processed **after 3:00 p.m. CT** until Monday, September 30, 2024.
- Friday, September 27, 2024**
 - The website, online account access and phone center will be **unavailable beginning at 3:00 p.m. CT** until Monday, September 30, 2024.
- Monday, September 30, 2024**
 - Transition to the new program manager is complete.
 - Accounts automatically transfer to the new account management system.
 - Account balance(s) in your investment portfolio(s) automatically transfer to the new investment portfolios.
 - Account access and transaction capability resumes at 7:00 a.m. CT.
 - The new-and-improved Bright Start 529 website goes live. The website address will still be BrightStart.com.
- October 2024**
 - Final statement reflecting your ending balance under the current program manager is mailed.
 - Opening account activity notification is mailed, or emailed if you have elected e-delivery, providing your new account number and confirming the purchase of your new Bright Start 529 units under the new plan manager.

About Your New Account Number

Your Bright Start 529 account number, provided in your opening account activity notification, will change to 11-digits; 9-alphanumeric characters (your master account number) followed by a 2-digit extension distinguishing each of your beneficiaries. If you have only one beneficiary the extension is 01, for multiple beneficiaries 02, 03, etc. (e.g. A12345678-01)

Required Action

Action	What's Needed
(September 30, 2024) AFTER TRANSITION:	AFTER TRANSITION:
Re-establish Online Account Access	You must re-establish your online account at BrightStart.com on or after September 30, 2024 to continue accessing and managing your account online.
Update Bill Pay	If bill pay is utilized, you must update your bank, after September 30, 2024, with your new 11-digit Bright Start 529 account number (located on your opening account activity notification) and new address: PO Box 219288, Kansas City, MO 64121-9288.
Download the READYSAVE™ 529 App	Download READYSAVE™ 529 App from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. Online account access cannot be re-established from the App.
Ugift®	The online gifting tool, GiftED, will no longer be accessible. To receive future gifts, use the new gifting tool, Ugift®, at BrightStart.com or the READYSAVE™ 529 App after you re-establish online account access. If you have shared a GiftED invitation with family and friends for gifting at birthdays and holidays, replace it with a new Bright Start 529 Ugift code.

Thank you for your investment in Bright Start 529. **Together we can help make your dreams of higher education for your child or loved one come true.** For more information, click the buttons below to review the Transition Guide and Plan Description.

Transition Guide

Plan Description



Michael W. Frerichs
ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER
Trustee and Administrator

Please refer to the Program Disclosure Statement at [BrightStart.com](#) prior to investing for its investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses and whether your home state offers tax or other benefits such as financial aid, scholarship funds, or protection from creditors for investing in its own 529 plan. Read it carefully. Investments in the Plan are neither insured nor guaranteed and there is the risk of investment loss except as provided in the Program Disclosure Statement solely with respect to the FDIC-insured Bank Savings Underlying Investment. The Bright Start Direct-Sold College Savings Program is sponsored by the State of Illinois and administered by the Illinois State Treasurer, as Trustee. Union Bank and Trust Company serves as the Program Manager.

Upon completion of the transition, TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc., an SEC registered investment adviser, will be the Plan Manager for the Bright Start Direct-Sold College Savings Program. TIAA-CREF Individual & Institutional Services, LLC, member FINRA, will be the distributor for the plan.

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