



# Your Bright Start 529 College Savings Plan **Is Getting Even Better!**

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Dear Bright Start 529 College Savings Plan Account Owner,

Since being elected as Illinois State Treasurer in 2014, my priority has been to provide you with an exceptional college savings plan. In the decade since, we've saved Illinois 529 account holders over \$100 million in fees and are proud to have made the Bright Start Direct-Sold College Savings Program (Bright Start 529) one of the best 529 plans in the country, as recognized by national outlets including Time, Forbes, and Business Insider.<sup>1</sup>

Our work is not finished. I'm proud to announce upcoming enhancements to make Bright Start 529 even better. After the close of business on September 27, 2024, program management of Bright Start 529 will transfer from Union Bank and Trust Company to TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc. (TFI), a subsidiary of financial services leader TIAA. TFI is one of the largest and most widely recognized program managers of 529 college savings plans, currently managing college savings for more than 1.6 million families across the nation.

With this transition to TIAA, you'll experience:

#### Lower Fees

Bright Start 529, already among the lowest-cost college savings plans in the country, will continue to save families more.<sup>2</sup> Families saving with Bright Start 529 will see a greater percentage of their contributions invested for future education expenses as the plan reduces total average asset weighted fees by 13%, saving account owners a combined total of approximately \$2.4 million annually.

#### Investment Menu Enhancements

This transition will maintain Bright Start 529's low-cost, high-quality investments while further increasing the quality of investment portfolios at a lower price.

Bright Start 529's most significant investment lineup enhancement will be the transition from the current Age-Based Portfolio structure to an Enrollment Year Portfolio structure, allowing for a better investor experience due to the gradual rebalancing of the investment portfolios. The Enrollment Year Portfolios offer more flexibility to meet varying investment objectives, risk profiles, and an investment time horizon tied to the future student's year of enrollment or use instead of their age.

#### Modern Account Management

Families will benefit from a modern technology platform designed specifically for 529 college savings plans. In addition, account owners will be able to open and manage their accounts through a mobile app on their smartphones. The Bright Start 529 website will be updated to feature improved navigation, a social gifting platform, and a robust suite of tools to help families plan for higher education.

#### What Else You Should Know

We will be making this as easy as possible for you. Your account information, investment portfolio(s), and account preferences will seamlessly transition to the new account management system. However, please note that some action may be required.

Please review this Transition Guide 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.

Thank you for your investment in Bright Start 529. We look forward to helping you achieve your college savings goals in the years ahead.

Sincerely,



Michael W. Frerichs  
Illinois State Treasurer  
Trustee and Administrator

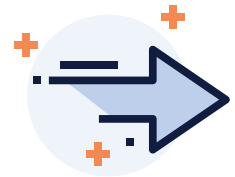


Michael W. Frerichs  
ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER  
Trustee and Administrator



# Pre- and Post-Transition Overview

## At-A-Glance Comparison



	Current	September 30, 2024
Program Manager	Union Bank and Trust Company	TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc. (TFI)
Call Center Hours	M-F 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. CT	M-F 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. CT
Phone Number	877.432.7444	877.432.7444
Plan Mailing Address	Bright Start 529 Direct-Sold College Savings Program PO Box 85298 Lincoln, NE 68501	Bright Start 529 Direct-Sold College Savings Program PO Box 219288 Kansas City, MO 64121-9288
Plan Overnight Address	Bright Start Direct-Sold College Savings Program 1248 O Street, Suite 200 Lincoln, NE 68508	Bright Start Direct-Sold College Savings Program 1001 E 101st Terrace, Suite 200 Kansas City, MO 64131
Investment Portfolios	3 Index Age-Based Portfolios (Aggressive, Moderate, Conservative) 3 Multi-Firm Age-Based Portfolios (Aggressive, Moderate, Conservative) 3 Index Target Portfolios 3 Multi-Firm Target Portfolios 17 Individual Fund Portfolios	2 Passive Enrollment Year Portfolios (Aggressive and Moderate) 2 Active Blend Enrollment Year Portfolios (Aggressive and Moderate) 3 Passive Static Allocation Portfolios 3 Active Blend Static Allocation Portfolios 18 Individual Portfolios
Account Number	9-digits (e.g. 123456789)	11-digits 9-alphanumeric characters + 2-digit extension (e.g. A12345678-01)
Fees	0.07% - 0.77% (depending upon portfolio selected)	0% - 0.765% (depending upon portfolio selected)
Gifting Platform	GiftED Send gift requests via mail and email	Ugift® Send gift requests via email, mail, social media and text (using the app)
Mobile App	No	Yes READYSAVE™ 529
Optional Automatic Annual Increase to Recurring Contributions	No	Yes
Bright Start 529 College Savings Visa® Card	Yes	No Bright Start 529 College Savings Visa® Card will be closed on August 23, 2024

# Transition Timeline

## Important Dates to Remember



### 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.

#### WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE OLD AND NEW PLAN?

**1**  
Lower  
Fees.

**2**  
Transition from  
Age-Based Portfolios  
to Enrollment Year  
Portfolios. New  
Sustainable Investment  
portfolio added.

**3**  
New and  
improved account  
management system  
and award-winning  
website  
design.

**4**  
Modern  
technology  
platform  
and mobile app.

# Common Questions

This section provides answers to questions you may have about the program manager change and will help you understand how to manage your Bright Start 529 account following the transition.

## Why Is Bright Start 529 Changing Program Managers?

On July 26, 2023, the Office of the Illinois State Treasurer issued a Request for Proposals for the program management services of the Bright Start Direct-Sold College Savings Program as the management agreement with the current program manager, Union Bank and Trust Company, was expiring. After a competitive bidding process, TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc. (TFI) was selected to enhance the overall investor experience and make saving for higher education easier and accessible to all families. TFI is one of the largest and longest-term program managers for qualified tuition programs and is a wholly-owned subsidiary of TIAA, a Fortune 500 financial services organization.

## What Is Staying The Same?

- Our website and phone number.
  - BrightStart.com
  - 1-877-432-7444
- Your current account elections (e.g., delivery method, investment allocation instructions).
- Your current automatic/recurring contributions from a checking or savings account.
- Illinois First Steps: Children born or adopted on or after January 1, 2023, with parents or legal guardians who are residents of Illinois can still receive a \$50 seed deposit from Illinois First Steps when opening a Bright Start 529 account for their future college, technical, or apprenticeship education. There will be no changes to this program. For additional details, visit [BrightStart.com/firststeps](https://BrightStart.com/firststeps).  
For families who have already received their Illinois First Steps contributions, these funds will automatically transfer, no action is necessary.

## What Will The New Fees Be?

After the transition, total program fees will range from 0% - 0.765%, depending upon the portfolio selection. Bright Start 529 continues to rank among the highest quality and lowest-cost college savings plans in the nation.<sup>1,2</sup> Complete fee details are included in the enclosed Plan Description.

## Will The Transition Result In Any Costs To Me?

No, there will be no costs to Bright Start 529 account owners as a result of the program manager change.

## What Do I Need To Do In Preparation For The Transition?

Refer to the Required Actions provided on page 15.

Account information, including all activity prior to the transition, account preferences and investment portfolio(s) will automatically transfer to the new account management system.

## Account And Transaction Information

### Will My Account Number Change?

Yes, your Bright Start 529 account number 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).

Following the transition, you will receive an opening account activity notification with your new account number.

### Can I Continue To Conduct Transactions In My Account Up To And During The Transition?

No transaction or maintenance requests, including withdrawals, contributions or account changes will be processed during the transition.

Refer to the Transition Timeline on page 5 for additional details.

### How Can I Access My Account After The Transition?

Beginning September 30, 2024, you will need to re-establish your online account access using your Social Security Number (SSN) or Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN), date of birth and ZIP code. Follow the instructions below:

- Go to [BrightStart.com](https://BrightStart.com) and click on the Log In button in the top right corner (the READYSAVE™ 529 app cannot be used to re-establish online account access).
- On the Log In page click on the create a new username and password link.
- Enter your SSN (or ITIN), date of birth and ZIP Code.
- Enter/select your contact preferences. Your e-delivery elections will automatically transfer and can be easily updated at this time.
- Enter your email address, username, password, and select/enter your security questions and answers.
- Select your security image and enter your passphrase.

### ARE YOU MAKING AUTOMATIC PAYROLL CONTRIBUTIONS?

If you are making payroll contributions to your account, you will receive a separate mailing in September with instructions for additional action required. If no action has been taken, payroll contributions submitted after September 25, 2024 will not be processed and will be returned to your employer. If you are a State of Illinois employee, you will not receive this communication, instead any necessary changes will be made with your employer directly, no action is necessary.



## HELPFUL DEFINITIONS

**Bill Pay:** This refers to contributions you push from your bank account to Bright Start 529 using your bank's online banking platform.

**Recurring Contribution Plan:** This refers to a recurring deduction from your bank to your Bright Start 529 account that you set up.

**Payroll Contributions:** This refers to recurring deductions from your paycheck that are contributed to your Bright Start 529 account.

## How Will My Contributions To The Plan Be Affected By The Transition?

- **Contributions by Check:** To ensure your contribution check(s) are promptly invested and allocated after the transition on September 30, 2024, make checks payable to "Bright Start Direct-Sold College Savings Program" and mail them to the new plan address:

Bright Start Direct-Sold  
College Savings Program  
PO Box 219288  
Kansas City, MO 64121-9288

Overnight Mail:  
Bright Start Direct-Sold  
College Savings Program  
1001 E 101st Terrace, Suite 200  
Kansas City, MO 64131

Be sure to include your new 11-digit account number; 9-alphanumeric characters (master account number) followed by a 2-digit extension for each beneficiary you are contributing to. Note that any contribution checks made out to "Union Bank and Trust Company" will be returned.

- **Bill Pay:** Because your account number is changing, if you have automatic or manual contributions set up through your bank, you must update your bank information with your new 11-digit Bright Start 529 account number as well as update the plan mailing address. In October following the transition, you will receive an opening account activity notification with your new account number.
- **Recurring Contribution Plan (Automatic Investment Plan):** If you currently

contribute to your Bright Start 529 account(s) from a checking or savings account, no action is necessary. Your current recurring contribution(s) will seamlessly transition to your new Bright Start 529 account(s).

- **Payroll Contributions:** Because account numbers and the plan's bank routing information will change, any payroll contributions submitted by your employer to your Bright Start 529 account(s) after September 25, 2024 will be returned to your employer if your payroll instructions have not been updated. To ensure your payroll contributions continue after the transition, you will need to update your payroll contribution information with your employer. If you are contributing to your account(s) through payroll contributions, you will receive a separate mailing in September providing step-by-step instructions for updating your payroll. If you are a State of Illinois employee, you will not receive this communication, instead any necessary changes will be made with your employer directly, no action is necessary.

## Can I Still Use My Existing Bright Start 529 Forms And Documents After The Transition?

Discard any pre-addressed envelopes, deposit coupons, or forms currently on hand before the transition so you do not mistakenly use them following the transition. **The plan address will change and any mail sent to the old address will be returned to you.**

## How Do I Make Account Transactions After The Transition?

After establishing new login credentials, you may access your account via BrightStart.com or the READYSAVE™ 529 mobile app to request transactions or maintenance requests. If your banking information is currently on file with Union Bank and Trust Company, this information will carry over after the transition and you will be able to transfer money from your bank into your Bright Start 529 account when logged in. To update or add bank instructions after the transition, enter your bank information while you are logged in to your account online.



## 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)

### Example

Current Bright Start 529 account numbers are 9-digits:  
e.g. 123456789

New Bright Start 529 account numbers will be 9-alphanumeric digits followed by a dash and 2-digits:  
e.g. A12345678-01

## RE-ESTABLISH ONLINE ACCOUNT ACCESS

Beginning September 30, 2024, you will need to create a new username and password at BrightStart.com to access your account online (the READYSAVE™ 529 app cannot be used to re-establish online account access). The following items are required to establish new login credentials:

1. Account owner Social Security Number or Individual Tax Identification Number
2. Account owner date of birth
3. Account owner ZIP code

## Plan Reporting

### How Will I Know The Transition Is Complete?

In October, after the transition, you will be mailed a final statement from the current program manager displaying the balance in your account before the transition. You will also receive an opening account activity notification from the new program manager displaying the units purchased into the new investment portfolio(s). The dollar value of your new account will be the same as your September 27, 2024 final statement value but the investment portfolio(s), unit value(s), and number of units you own will be different after the transition.

### Will The Transition Create A Taxable Event?

No, the transition will not have any tax consequences for Bright Start 529 account owners.

### Can I Receive My Statements And Other Plan Documents Electronically?

If you currently receive your Bright Start 529 account statement or plan notifications electronically, your e-delivery election will continue after the transition. If you have not elected e-delivery and you would like to receive account statements and other plan documents online, sign up for e-delivery before the transition or when you re-establish your online account access after the transition.

## Investment Information

### What Will Happen To My Current Investments After The Transition?

Your investment portfolio(s) will automatically transition to the new Bright Start 529 investment portfolio(s) intended to match your current investment(s). No action is necessary. While the goals and objectives of the new investment portfolios strive to be similar to those of your current investment lineup, the portfolios may not be exactly the same.

Account owners are permitted to reallocate investment portfolios twice per calendar year and when you make a beneficiary change. The automatic transition of your Bright Start 529 investment portfolio(s) to the new investment portfolio(s) will not count towards the permitted twice per calendar year reallocation of assets from one investment portfolio to another.

If you have not made two reallocations among investment portfolios in 2024, you may choose an alternative investment portfolio any time before December 31, 2024. If you already made two reallocations among your investment portfolios, you will need to wait until January 1, 2025 to do so.

### Why The Change From Age-Based Portfolios To Enrollment Year Portfolios?

Bright Start 529 is committed to innovation, and more importantly, seeks to position your college savings investments for optimal performance throughout the lifetime of your account. As such, we are transitioning the current Age-Based





The investment map on pages 10-12 illustrates how your current investments will be automatically transferred into the new Bright Start 529 investment portfolios over the transition weekend. Learn more about the new investment portfolios, including investment objectives, risks, allocations, and fees, in the enclosed Plan Description.



Portfolios to new Enrollment Year Portfolios, offering you the flexibility to choose the expected year of enrollment in school for your beneficiary or to choose an Enrollment Year Portfolio that more closely aligns with your investment objectives and risk tolerance.

We are building on this methodology by offering more flexibility to meet varying investment objectives, risk profiles, and investment time horizons. Compared to the current Aged-Based Portfolios, the Enrollment Year Portfolios adjust the investment allocation more frequently, resulting in a more gradual de-risking of assets from equities to fixed income that seeks to minimize the timing risk associated with making allocation changes.

#### **Will Historical Performance Be Available After The Transition?**

Prior portfolio historical performance will be available on BrightStart.com for an entire year after the transition.

#### **Why Are The Index Conservative Age-Based Portfolios And Multi-Firm Conservative Age-Based Portfolios Mapping To The Moderate Enrollment Year Portfolios And Moderate Active Blend Enrollment Year Portfolios?**

The new investment portfolios are intended to match current investment portfolios, however, they may not be exactly the same. The index and multi-firm conservative age-based portfolios are being eliminated. Account owners currently invested in the conservative age-based portfolios are being mapped to moderate enrollment year portfolios. Both the Moderate Enrollment Year Portfolios and the Moderate Active Blend Enrollment Year Portfolios have slightly lower equity allocations compared to the current, corresponding conservative investment portfolios.

#### **Are There Any Changes To The Target Portfolios?**

Target Portfolios will be renamed Static Allocation Portfolios. The three Index Target Portfolios will be mapped to Passive Static Allocation Portfolios. The three Multi-Firm Target Portfolios will be mapped to Active Blend Static Allocation Portfolios. The underlying funds and asset allocations within each of the six portfolios will have slight adjustments.

#### **Are There Any Changes To The Individual Fund Portfolios?**

The number of Individual Fund Portfolios will increase from 17 to 18 and will be renamed Individual Portfolios. The current Individual Fund Portfolios will automatically transfer into the new Bright Start 529 Individual Portfolios. Although the goals and objectives of the new portfolios may be similar to your current investment lineup, the investment portfolios will not be exactly the same.

We are adding a new sustainable investment Individual Portfolio, the Parnassus Core Equity 529 Portfolio.

Two Individual Fund Portfolios will be replaced with new portfolios with similar investment strategies. The Vanguard Total International Stock Index 529 Portfolio will be replaced with the Nuveen International Equity Index 529 Portfolio and the Vanguard Federal Money Market 529 Portfolio will be replaced with the Principal Plus Interest 529 Portfolio.

The Bank Savings 529 Portfolio will be renamed High Yield Bank Savings 529 Portfolio.

Refer to the Investment Map on pages 10-12 and the enclosed Plan Description for complete details.

#### **Will The New Individual Portfolios Be Open To New Investments After The Transition?**

Yes, the new Individual Portfolios will be open to new investments starting September 30, 2024.

(from pages 3 & 6)

<sup>1</sup>Campbell, Tessa. "Best 529 Plan for 2024." Business Insider, 6/28/2024, [businessinsider.com/personal-finance/best-529-plans](https://businessinsider.com/personal-finance/best-529-plans).  
McGurran, Brianna. "Best 529 Plans of 2024." Forbes Advisor, 7/1/2024, [forbes.com/advisor/student-loans/best-529-plans/](https://forbes.com/advisor/student-loans/best-529-plans/).  
Lake, Rebecca. "Best 529 College Savings Plans for 2024." TIME Stamped, 5/8/2024, [time.com/personal-finance/article/best-529-college-savings-plans](https://time.com/personal-finance/article/best-529-college-savings-plans).

<sup>2</sup>Source: ISS Market Intelligence 529 College Savings Quarterly Fee Analysis First Quarter 2024.

# Investment Map

## Bright Start 529 Investment Portfolios Will Be Automatically Converted

The tables below illustrate how your current investments will be transferred to the new Bright Start 529 investment portfolios.

Current Portfolio	New Investment Portfolio
INDEX AGE-BASED PORTFOLIO	PASSIVE ENROLLMENT YEAR PORTFOLIOS
<i>Index Aggressive Age-Based Portfolios</i>	<i>Aggressive Enrollment Year Portfolios</i>
0-2 years	Aggressive 2040/2041 Enrollment Portfolio
3-5 years	Aggressive 2038/2039 Enrollment Portfolio
6-8 years	Aggressive 2036/2037 Enrollment Portfolio
9-10 years	Aggressive 2034/2035 Enrollment Portfolio
11-12 years	Aggressive 2032/2033 Enrollment Portfolio
13-14 years	Aggressive 2030/2031 Enrollment Portfolio
15-16 years	Aggressive 2028/2029 Enrollment Portfolio
17-18 years	Aggressive 2026/2027 Enrollment Portfolio
Age 19+	Aggressive Enrolled Portfolio
<i>Index Moderate Age-Based Portfolios</i>	<i>Moderate Enrollment Year Portfolios</i>
0-2 years	Moderate 2040/2041 Enrollment Portfolio
3-5 years	Moderate 2038/2039 Enrollment Portfolio
6-8 years	Moderate 2036/2037 Enrollment Portfolio
9-10 years	Moderate 2034/2035 Enrollment Portfolio
11-12 years	Moderate 2032/2033 Enrollment Portfolio
13-14 years	Moderate 2030/2031 Enrollment Portfolio
15-16 years	Moderate 2028/2029 Enrollment Portfolio
17-18 years	Moderate 2026/2027 Enrollment Portfolio
Age 19+	Moderate Enrolled Portfolio
<i>Index Conservative Age-Based Portfolios</i>	<i>Moderate Enrollment Year Portfolios</i>
0-2 years	Moderate 2038/2039 Enrollment Portfolio
3-5 years	Moderate 2036/2037 Enrollment Portfolio
6-8 years	Moderate 2034/2035 Enrollment Portfolio
9-10 years	Moderate 2032/2033 Enrollment Portfolio
11-12 years	Moderate 2030/2031 Enrollment Portfolio
13-14 years	Moderate 2028/2029 Enrollment Portfolio
15-16 years	Moderate 2026/2027 Enrollment Portfolio
17-18 years	Moderate Enrolled Portfolio
Age 19+	Fixed Income Portfolio



**Conservative Age-Based Portfolios** are being mapped to **Moderate Enrollment Year Portfolios** that most closely match the current asset allocation.



Current Portfolio	New Investment Portfolio
MULTI-FIRM AGE-BASED PORTFOLIOS	ACTIVE BLEND ENROLLMENT YEAR PORTFOLIOS
<i>Multi-Firm Aggressive Age-Based Portfolio</i>	<i>Active Blend Enrollment Year Portfolios</i>
0-2 years	Aggressive Active Blend 2040/2041 Enrollment Portfolio
3-5 years	Aggressive Active Blend 2038/2039 Enrollment Portfolio
6-8 years	Aggressive Active Blend 2036/2037 Enrollment Portfolio
9-10 years	Aggressive Active Blend 2034/2035 Enrollment Portfolio
11-12 years	Aggressive Active Blend 2032/2033 Enrollment Portfolio
13-14 years	Aggressive Active Blend 2030/2031 Enrollment Portfolio
15-16 years	Aggressive Active Blend 2028/2029 Enrollment Portfolio
17-18 years	Aggressive Active Blend 2026/2027 Enrollment Portfolio
Age 19+	Aggressive Active Blend Enrolled Portfolio
<i>Multi-Firm Moderate Age-Based Portfolio</i>	<i>Moderate Active Blend Enrollment Year Portfolios</i>
0-2 years	Moderate Active Blend 2040/2041 Enrollment Portfolio
3-5 years	Moderate Active Blend 2038/2039 Enrollment Portfolio
6-8 years	Moderate Active Blend 2036/2037 Enrollment Portfolio
9-10 years	Moderate Active Blend 2034/2035 Enrollment Portfolio
11-12 years	Moderate Active Blend 2032/2033 Enrollment Portfolio
13-14 years	Moderate Active Blend 2030/2031 Enrollment Portfolio
15-16 years	Moderate Active Blend 2028/2029 Enrollment Portfolio
17-18 years	Moderate Active Blend 2026/2027 Enrollment Portfolio
Age 19+	Moderate Active Blend Enrolled Portfolio
<i>Multi-Firm Conservative Age-Based Portfolio</i>	<i>Moderate Active Blend Enrollment Year Portfolios</i>
0-2 years	Moderate Active Blend 2038/2039 Enrollment Portfolio
3-5 years	Moderate Active Blend 2036/2037 Enrollment Portfolio
6-8 years	Moderate Active Blend 2034/2035 Enrollment Portfolio
9-10 years	Moderate Active Blend 2032/2033 Enrollment Portfolio
11-12 years	Moderate Active Blend 2030/2031 Enrollment Portfolio
13-14 years	Moderate Active Blend 2028/2029 Enrollment Portfolio
15-16 years	Moderate Active Blend 2026/2027 Enrollment Portfolio
17-18 years	Moderate Active Blend Enrolled Portfolio
Age 19+	Active Blend Fixed Income Portfolio

Current Portfolio	New Investment Portfolio
<b>TARGET PORTFOLIOS</b>	<b>STATIC ALLOCATION PORTFOLIOS</b>
<i><b>Index Target Portfolios</b></i>	<i><b>Passive Static Allocation Portfolios</b></i>
Index Equity Portfolio	Equity Portfolio
Index Balanced Portfolio	Balanced Portfolio
Index Fixed Income Portfolio	Fixed Income Portfolio
<i><b>Multi-Firm Target Portfolios</b></i>	<i><b>Active Blend Static Allocation Portfolios</b></i>
Equity Portfolio	Active Blend Equity Portfolio
Balanced Portfolio	Active Blend Balanced Portfolio
Fixed Income Portfolio	Active Blend Fixed Income Portfolio
<b>INDIVIDUAL FUND PORTFOLIOS</b>	<b>INDIVIDUAL PORTFOLIOS</b>
<i><b>U.S. Equity</b></i>	<i><b>U.S. Equity</b></i>
Vanguard Total Stock Market Index 529 Portfolio	Vanguard Total Stock Market Index 529 Portfolio
Vanguard 500 Index 529 Portfolio	Vanguard S&P 500 Index 529 Portfolio
DFA U.S. Large Cap Value 529 Portfolio	DFA U.S. Large Cap Value 529 Portfolio
T. Rowe Price Large-Cap Growth 529 Portfolio	T. Rowe Price Large-Cap Growth 529 Portfolio
Ariel 529 Portfolio	Ariel 529 Portfolio
Vanguard Explorer 529 Portfolio	Vanguard Explorer 529 Portfolio
DFA U.S. Targeted Value 529 Portfolio	DFA U.S. Targeted Value 529 Portfolio
<i><b>International Equity</b></i>	<i><b>International Equity</b></i>
Vanguard Total International Stock Index 529 Portfolio	Nuveen International Equity Index 529 Portfolio
DFA International Small Company 529 Portfolio	DFA International Small Company 529 Portfolio
<i><b>Real Estate</b></i>	<i><b>Real Estate</b></i>
Vanguard Real Estate Index 529 Portfolio	Vanguard Real Estate Index 529 Portfolio
<i><b>Sustainable Investment</b></i>	<i><b>Sustainable Investment</b></i>
Not Available	Parnassus Core Equity 529 Portfolio
<i><b>Fixed Income</b></i>	<i><b>Fixed Income</b></i>
Vanguard Total Bond Market Index 529 Portfolio	Vanguard Total Bond Market Index 529 Portfolio
Dodge & Cox Income 529 Portfolio	Dodge & Cox Income 529 Portfolio
Vanguard Total International Bond Index 529 Portfolio	Vanguard Total International Bond Index 529 Portfolio
Vanguard Short-Term Inflation-Protected Securities Index 529 Portfolio	Vanguard Short-Term Inflation-Protected Securities Index 529 Portfolio
Baird Short-Term Bond 529 Portfolio	Baird Short-Term Bond 529 Portfolio
<i><b>Cash Equivalent</b></i>	<i><b>Cash Equivalent</b></i>
Bank Savings 529 Portfolio	High Yield Bank Savings 529 Portfolio
Vanguard Federal Money Market 529 Portfolio	Principal Plus Interest 529 Portfolio



Note that performance information for the new plan investment portfolios will have an inception date of September 27, 2024.



### IMPORTANT NOTES

Federal law permits a reallocation of existing 529 plan account assets from one investment portfolio to another twice per calendar year and when you make certain beneficiary changes.

- If you have not made two reallocations among investment portfolios in 2024, you may do so any time before December 31, 2024.
- If you already made two reallocations among your investment portfolios, you will need to wait until January 1, 2025 to do so.
- The automatic transition of your Bright Start investment portfolio(s) to the new Bright Start 529 investment portfolio(s) will not count towards the permitted twice per calendar year reallocation of assets from one investment portfolio to another.
- Investment changes or contributions to the new Bright Start 529 portfolios will not be available until September 30, 2024.

# What's New



## Award-Winning Website Design

Bright Start 529 account owners will experience a new award-winning website design with improved navigation, streamlined content, and robust tools.

When accessing your account through the website portal, you will find an entirely new design to securely manage all aspects of your account such as investment changes, viewing account balances, and making withdrawals. To help families achieve their higher education savings goals, an optional feature to annually increase recurring contributions will now be available.

## READYSAVE™ 529 Mobile App

You will soon be able to securely complete most of the common tasks related to managing your account through the new READYSAVE™ 529 app. With the app you can:

- ✓ Check your account balance, transaction history (recent activity up to 90 days excluding pre-transition history), and investment allocations
- ✓ Contribute funds to your account as a one-time or recurring contribution
- ✓ Open a new account for a different beneficiary
- ✓ Request gifts from friends and family through the new gifting platform Ugift®
- ✓ Keep your college goals on track by monitoring your savings progress

To fully take advantage of these features you must do the following on or after September 30, 2024.

1. Re-establish your online account access at BrightStart.com by creating a new login username and password. See page 6 for instructions.
2. After re-establishing your online account, go to your app store and download READYSAVE™ 529. Select the Illinois Bright Start 529 tile.
3. Log in using your new username and password.

**It couldn't be easier to plan for your child's future from the palm of your hand!**



## New Gifting Platform

The Bright Start 529 gifting platform will be changing from GiftED to Ugift®. It offers a convenient way to give, receive, and make special contribution requests. Friends and family can use the account's unique Ugift code at any time to make one-time or recurring gift contributions via ACH at Ugift529.com or by mailing a check. Sharing a polite request is effortless for the account owner through Ugift's integrated text, email, printed invitations, and now via Facebook and X (formerly Twitter). You will be able to access the new gifting platform by logging in to your account online or from the READYSAVE™ 529 mobile app.

The GiftED gifting portal will no longer be accessible following the transition. To receive future gifts, you can register to use Ugift when you re-establish online access.





# Required Action

Action	What's Needed
BEFORE TRANSITION: (September 25, 2024)	BEFORE TRANSITION:
Review Transition Timeline	During the transition, the call center and website will be unavailable and no account transactions or maintenance items will be processed. Please review the transition timeline on page 5.
Update Payroll Instructions	If you currently contribute to your account through payroll, you will need to update your payroll instructions with your employer to ensure continuation of your contribution. You will receive a separate mailing in September providing direction for updating your payroll instructions. If you are a State of Illinois employee, you will not receive this communication, instead any necessary changes will be made with your employer directly, no action is necessary.
Destroy Current Bright Start 529 Forms	Discard any plan pre-addressed envelopes, deposit coupons, or forms that won't be used prior to the transition so you do not mistakenly use after the transition. The plan address will change and any mail sent to the old address will be returned.
Download and Keep Account Statements	We recommend that you download your most recent statement and tax forms, if applicable prior to the transition.
Confirm Mail and Email Address	To ensure timely receipt of all transition communications, final statement and opening account activity notification, log in to your account to make sure your mailing and email address are current.
AFTER TRANSITION: (September 30, 2024)	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. See page 6 for instructions.
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. See page 14 to scan QR codes with your mobile phone. 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.

## IN OCTOBER FOLLOWING THE TRANSITION

You will receive two documents with important information.

1. **Final Statement:** A final statement reflecting your ending balance under the current program manager.
2. **Opening Account Activity Notification:** An opening account activity notification with your new account number and confirming the purchase of your new Bright Start 529 units under the new plan manager, TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc. The dollar value of your account will be the same as your September 27, 2024 final statement value but investment portfolio(s), unit value(s), and number of units you own will be different after the transition.

For easy reference, we will post all transition communications pertaining to the program management change to [BrightStartEnhancements.com](https://BrightStartEnhancements.com).

Thank you for choosing Bright Start 529. Together we can help make your dreams of higher education for your child or loved one come true.



BrightStartEnhancements.com



Michael W. Frerichs

ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER

Trustee and Administrator



BrightStart.com

Please refer to the Program Disclosure Statement at [BrightStart.com](http://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.

Ugift® is a registered service mark of Ascensus Broker Dealer Services, LLC.

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