

## Frequently Asked Questions about my529, an Educational Savings Plan

### 1. What is a 529 plan?

A 529 plan is a tax-advantaged vehicle designed to encourage individuals to invest for future qualified higher education expenses. 529 funds can also be used to pay up to \$10,000 of annual K-12 tuition expenses. These plans are authorized by Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code.

### 2. What is my529?

my529 is the official 529 plan established and sponsored by the State of Utah. It is a direct-sold plan, which means you can set up an account and make contributions by dealing directly with my529.

### 3. Is there any cost to open or maintain a my529 account?

- No. Opening an account is free—no startup fees.
- There are no initial or ongoing contribution requirements.

### 4. What are the tax benefits?

- Earnings grow tax-deferred from federal and Utah state taxes.
- Withdrawals are tax-free when used for qualified higher education expenses.
- Utah taxpayers may qualify for a Utah state income tax benefit on contributions.

*Read the Program Description for more information on the tax benefits of investing in my529.*

### 5. Who can own an account?

An account owner can be an individual, a corporation or even a trust. An individual can be an account owner regardless of the relationship to the beneficiary but must be at least 18 years old and a U.S. citizen with a valid Social Security or Taxpayer Identification Number. The individual account owner also must have a physical address in the United States.

### 6. Who can be a beneficiary?

Anyone can be a beneficiary of an account regardless of his or her relationship to the account owner. The beneficiary must be a U.S. citizen with a valid U.S. Social Security or Taxpayer Identification Number.

### 7. Can I change the beneficiary?

An account owner may change the beneficiary of the account to a member of the family of the current beneficiary. "Member of the family" is broadly defined and includes but is not limited to siblings, first cousins, parents, children, and grandchildren.

*Read the Program Description for more information on how "member of the family" is defined.*

### 8. How can 529 plan funds be used?

Funds saved through my529 may be used for a beneficiary's qualified higher education expenses, including tuition and fees; required books, supplies, and equipment; computers, software, and internet access; and certain room and board costs. 529 funds can also be used to pay up to \$10,000 of annual K-12 tuition expenses. Qualified expenses also include payments on qualified education loans (up to a total of \$10,000 from all 529 accounts) and costs of registered apprenticeship programs.

*Read the Program Description for more information on qualified higher education expenses.*

### 9. Where can 529 plan funds be used for higher education?

Funds may be used at any eligible educational institution that participates in federal financial aid programs for students in the United States and abroad. You can find a complete list of eligible educational institutions at [ifap.ed.gov/ifap/fedSchoolCodeList.jsp](http://ifap.ed.gov/ifap/fedSchoolCodeList.jsp).

### 10. How can 529 plan funds be used for K-12 expenses?

Federal law allows that 529 plan funds may be used for K-12 tuition expenses at public, private, or religious schools from kindergarten through 12th grade. Withdrawals cannot exceed a total of \$10,000 per year per beneficiary from all 529 accounts (regardless of who owns the account).

### 11. Who can contribute to an account?

Anyone can contribute to a my529 account, but only the account owner can (1) control how assets

are invested and used, and (2) claim tax benefits related to the account, regardless of who contributed to the account.

## 12. How can you make contributions to a my529 account?

- Online
- Check
- One-time or recurring electronic contributions from a checking or savings account
- Rolling in funds from another 529 plan
- my529 Gift Program
- Special occasion contributions on birthdays, holidays, or other special events
- Payroll direct deposit if authorized by employer

## 13. What are my529's investment options?

my529 offers 13 investment options: four age-based, seven static, and two customized. Underlying investments include Vanguard\* and Dimensional\* mutual funds, a PIMCO stable value fund, and FDIC-insured accounts.

*Read the Program Description for more information on my529's investment options.*

## 14. Can I make an investment option change?

The IRS allows an account owner two investment option changes per calendar year for the same beneficiary. An account owner may also change investment options in connection with a change of beneficiary.

## 15. What if I make a nonqualified withdrawal?

The earnings portion of funds withdrawn from a my529 account that is not used for qualified higher education expenses or up to \$10,000 of K-12 tuition expenses will be subject to federal and state income taxes and a 10 percent federal tax penalty. In addition, the Utah account owner must add back the amount of a

nonqualified withdrawal (to the extent it was deducted or used in calculating the Utah my529 credit on their current or a previously filed Utah tax return) as income on his or her Utah state income tax form for the taxable year the nonqualified withdrawal was made.

## 16. How will a change in circumstances impact my529 accounts?

Unforeseen circumstances occur, and the law accommodates certain situations. You may request a nonqualified withdrawal without penalty in the following circumstances:

- If the beneficiary dies or becomes disabled
- If the beneficiary receives a scholarship (up to the amount of the scholarship)
- If the beneficiary attends a U.S. service academy
- If 529 funds are used to claim certain federal education benefits

In those circumstances, the earnings portion of a nonqualified withdrawal will be subject to federal and state income taxes but will be exempt from the additional 10 percent federal tax penalty.

*Read the Program Description for more information on when certain withdrawals can be made without penalty.*

## 17. What happens if I end up with more in the account than the beneficiary needs for higher education?

- Keep the funds in the account to pay for graduate school or future qualified higher education expenses
- Transfer the funds to a member of the beneficiary's family
- Make a nonqualified withdrawal

\*Vanguard is a trademark of The Vanguard Group Inc.

Dimensional is a trademark of Dimensional Fund Advisors LP.

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### Important Legal Notice

*Investing is an important decision. Read the Program Description in its entirety for more information and consider all investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses before investing. For a copy of the Program Description, call 800.418.2551 or visit my529.org.*

*Investments in my529 are not insured or guaranteed by my529, the Utah State Board of Regents, the Utah Higher Education Assistance Authority or any other state or federal agency. Your investment could lose value. However, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) insurance is provided for the FDIC-insured accounts. Please read the Program Description to learn about the FDIC-insured accounts.*

*The state in which you or your beneficiary pays taxes or lives may offer a 529 plan that provides state tax or other benefits, such as financial aid, scholarship funds, and protection from creditors, not otherwise available to you by investing in my529. You should consider such benefits, if any, before investing in my529.*

*my529 does not provide legal, financial, investment, or tax advice, and the information provided in this document does not contain legal, financial, investment or tax advice and cannot be construed as such or relied upon for those purposes. You should consult your own tax or legal advisor to determine the effect of federal and state tax laws on your particular situation.*