



You Have to Start Somewhere
**SO THEY CAN GO
ANYWHERE**



MORNINGSTAR

Gold™


Since 2017*

877.432.7444 | BrightStart.com



They've got big plans — What's yours?

The cost of college is rising — but you can get ahead of the curve. The Bright Start 529 College Savings Plan lets you save on taxes while your college savings dollars accumulate, with a competitive cost structure and solid investment diversity. Ready to get started?

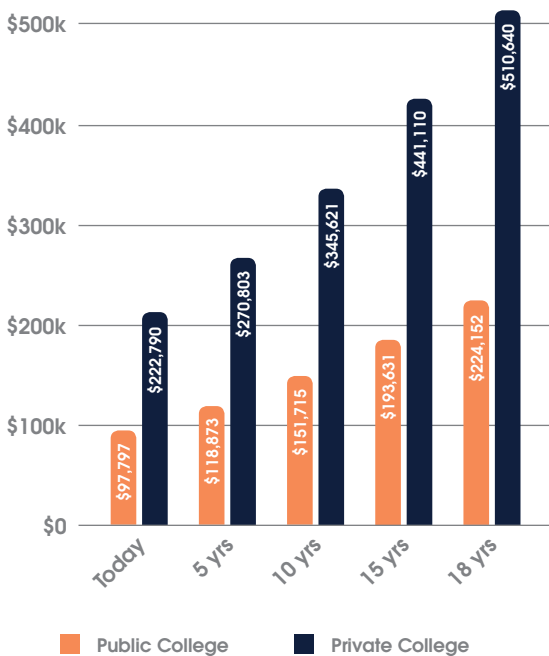




Start saving for the rising costs of college.

Save early and often, and you'll reduce the burden of long-term debt on your loved one.

PROJECTED COST OF COLLEGE (4 YRS)



Source: The College Board "Trends in College Pricing and Student Aid 2021" (October 2021) *Includes tuition, fees, and room and board. Assumes an average college cost inflation rate of 5 percent.



Why Bright Start?

There are a lot of ways to save for college. Here's why Bright Start might be best for you:

Tax Advantages: Saving with Bright Start gives you three attractive tax benefits:

1. Assets are tax-deferred while in the plan
2. Funds are free from federal income tax when used for qualified higher education expenses
3. Illinois taxpayers' contributions are eligible for a generous Illinois state income tax deduction:¹

**\$10,000 Per Year
if Filing Separately**

**\$20,000 Per Year
if Filing Jointly**

If you withdraw money for reasons other than qualified higher education expenses, the earnings portion may be subject to federal income tax and a 10% federal penalty tax as well as state and local income taxes.

Use It Almost Anywhere: Funds can be used nationwide at most accredited schools:

- Universities (public or private)
- Community colleges
- Trade and vocational schools
- Graduate schools

Pay for a Variety of Expenses: Qualified higher education expenses include:²

- Tuition and fees
- Room and board (for those enrolled at least ½ time)
- Books, supplies, and equipment required for enrollment
- Computer and required software
- Special needs services for a special needs beneficiary
- Apprenticeship program expenses
- Repayment of qualified education loans



Ready To Get Started?

When you're ready to save, go to **BrightStart.com** and enroll in one of 3 ways:

1



Directly online

2



**Request an enrollment kit to be
mailed to you**

3



Print out the application and mail to:

Bright Start
3560 S 48th St
Lincoln, NE 68506

Solid investment diversity and more choices.

Bright Start gives you multiple options for Age-Based Portfolios, Target Portfolios and Individual Fund Portfolios—all with investments from the Bright Start Fund Family:



DODGE & COX FUNDS®



Plus seven other quality fund families.

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 & Trust Company serves as Program Manager. Balances in your Bright Start account are not guaranteed or insured by Bright Start, the State of Illinois, the Illinois State Treasurer, any other state or federal agency, Union Bank & Trust Company or any of its affiliates, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (except as provided in the Program Disclosure Statement solely with respect to the FDIC-insured bank savings Underlying Investment), or any other entity.

An investor should consider the investment objectives, risks, and charges and expenses before investing. This and other important information is contained in the Bright Start Direct-Sold College Savings Program Disclosure Statement, which can be obtained at BrightStart.com and should be read carefully before investing. You can lose money by investing in a portfolio. Each of the portfolios involves investment risks, which are described in the Program Disclosure Statement.

Before you invest, consider whether your or the 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 that state's 529 plan.

¹An individual who files an individual Illinois state income tax return will be able to deduct up to \$10,000 per tax year (up to \$20,000 for married taxpayers filing a joint Illinois state income tax return) for their total, combined contributions to the Bright Directions Advisor-Guided 529 College Savings Program, the Bright Start Direct-Sold College Savings Program, and College Illinois during that tax year. The \$10,000 (individual) and \$20,000 (joint) limit on deductions will apply to total contributions made without regard to whether the contributions are made to a single account or more than one account. The amount of any deduction previously taken for Illinois income tax purposes is added back to Illinois taxable income in the event an Account Owner takes a Nonqualified Withdrawal from an Account or if such assets are rolled over to a non-Illinois 529 plan. If Illinois tax rates have increased since the original contribution, the additional tax liability may exceed the tax savings from the deduction.

²Withdrawals used to pay for Illinois Qualified Expenses are free from federal and Illinois state income tax. Illinois Qualified 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; certain expenses for special needs services needed by a special needs beneficiary; apprenticeship program expenses; and, repayment of up to \$10,000 of qualified education loans.

Illinois Qualified Expenses do not include expenses for tuition in connection with the Beneficiary's enrollment or attendance at an elementary or secondary public, private, or religious school. The amount of any deduction previously taken for Illinois income tax purposes is subject to recapture in the event an Account Owner takes a Nonqualified Withdrawal or Illinois Nonqualified Withdrawal from an Account or if such assets are rolled over to a non-Illinois 529 plan.

*The Morningstar Analyst Rating™ is not a credit or risk rating. It is a subjective evaluation performed by Morningstar's manager research group, which consists of various Morningstar, Inc. subsidiaries ("Manager Research Group"). In the United States, that subsidiary of Morningstar Research Services LLC, which is registered with and governed by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. The Manager Research Group evaluates each plan's investment options within the context of their objectives and peer groups, with emphasis placed on the options with the most assets. Plans are evaluated based on four key pillars, including process, people, parent, and price. The Manager Research Group uses this four pillar evaluation to determine which plans they believe are likely to adhere to industry best practices and feature investment options that are likely to collectively outperform relevant peers on a risk-adjusted basis over the long term. They consider quantitative and qualitative factors in their research, and the weight of each pillar is as follows: 30% for Process, People, and Parent, and 10% for Price. The Morningstar Analyst Rating scale is Gold, Silver, Bronze, Neutral, and Negative. Plans that receive Morningstar Analyst Ratings of Gold, Silver, or Bronze for the most part follow industry best practices, offering some combination of the following attractive features: a strong set of underlying investments, a solid manager selection process, a well-researched asset-allocation approach, an appropriate set of investment options to meet investor needs, low fees, and strong oversight from the state and program manager. State income tax benefits vary widely from state to state, and some states have no state tax benefit for investing in a 529 plan. Given the variability of state tax benefits for investors based on personal considerations such as residency, income level, size and frequency of contributions, and other factors, Morningstar does not treat tax benefits as a predictor of performance, and therefore it is not included in the ratings assessment. Morningstar Analyst Ratings are continuously monitored and reevaluated annually. For more detailed information about Morningstar's Analyst Rating for 529 College-Savings Plans, including the methodology, please go to https://www.morningstar.com/content/dam/marketing/shared/pdfs/Research/Morningstar_Analyst_Rating_Methodology_071020.pdf.

The Morningstar Analyst Rating (i) should not be used as the sole basis in evaluating a plan, (ii) involve unknown risks and uncertainties which may cause analyst expectations not to occur or to differ significantly from what they expected, and (iii) should not be considered an offer or solicitation to buy or sell a 529 college-savings plan or its underlying investment options.

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Not FDIC Insured* / No Bank Guarantee / May Lose Value

(*except for the Bank Savings Underlying Investment)



Michael W. Frerichs

ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER

Trustee and Administrator

UBT

Union Bank & Trust
Program Manager

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