



from the NEST

IN THIS ISSUE

Don't Miss the
Contribution Deadline

Cost of College
Snapshot

Class Is In Session

The Gift That Needs
No Wrapping

NEST 529 Students
Say It Best

Quiz Your Knowledge
of Eligible Expenses

► NEST 529 Celebrates its 20th Anniversary

A MESSAGE FROM THE NEBRASKA STATE TREASURER

We have a lot to celebrate after 20 years! Launched in 2001, the NEST 529 Program has over 289,000 investor accounts with over \$7 billion in assets to help children achieve their dreams. To celebrate, we gave away 20 prizes over 20 days. Families won annual zoo passes, gift cards to local eateries, and even \$529 in seed money for a NEST 529 account.

Higher education looks much different than it did 20 years ago. Tuition charges make up a fraction of an individual's total college bill. Scholarships and grants may cover books and institution fees, but many fail to cover living expenses. College tuition and costs continue to increase at, and above, the rate of inflation!¹ In 2020–2021, the average published tuition and fees for full-time undergraduate students were:

Public two-year college: \$3,770, \$70 higher than 2019–20

Public four-year in-state college: \$10,560, \$120 higher than 2019–20

Public four-year out-of-state college: \$27,020, \$250 higher than 2019–20²

NEST 529 savings help your loved one cover eligible school expenses, freeing up funds needed for other living costs.

In our next 20 years, I hope even more families will save for their children's future with NEST. After all, with rising college costs, it's important for families to prepare early. NEST puts you at the controls to increase your contributions over time, ensuring your child can soar toward their future.



Set them up to soar.

888.993.3746 | NEST529.com

Finish the year strong.

DON'T MISS THE CONTRIBUTION DEADLINE

When you take advantage of the Nebraska state income tax benefit for NEST 529, contributions have a December 31 deadline. The end of the year will be here before you know it, so don't forget to make any final contributions for 2021 soon by mail or at [NEST529.com](https://www.nest529.com). Contributions are deductible up to \$10,000 (up to \$5,000 if married, filing separately).³

How much should you be saving?

COST OF COLLEGE SNAPSHOT

As much as possible. With the cost of tuition rising faster than the inflation rate, it is important to save. A monthly contribution of \$50 over 18 years has the potential to grow to \$23,670 (figure 1).^{*} The forecasted price of a public in-state university in 2033 is \$94,800 (figure 2).⁴ The savings of \$23,670 will only cover one year of school. You're on the right track. Double-down and increase your contribution amounts to offset the sticker shock of college in the future, giving your child wings to reach their goals. Find more tips to calculate savings at [NEST529.com/blog](https://www.nest529.com/blog).

fig.1 MONTHLY CONTRIBUTIONS OVER 18 YEARS

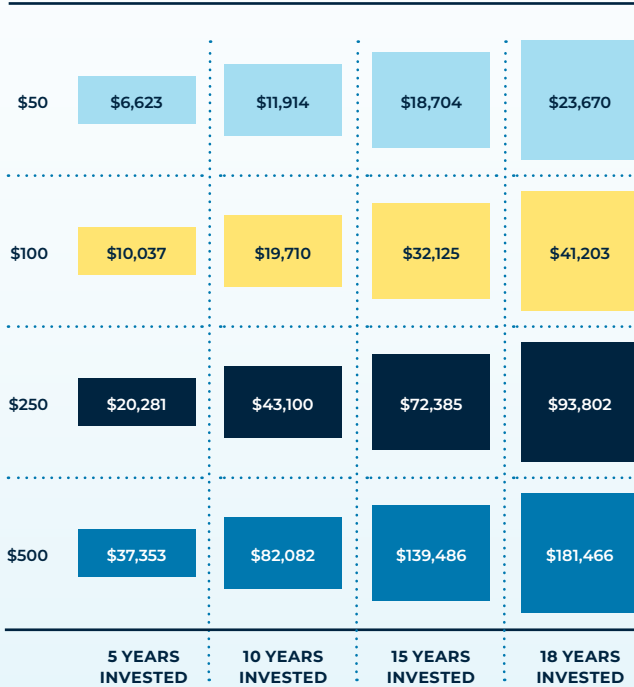
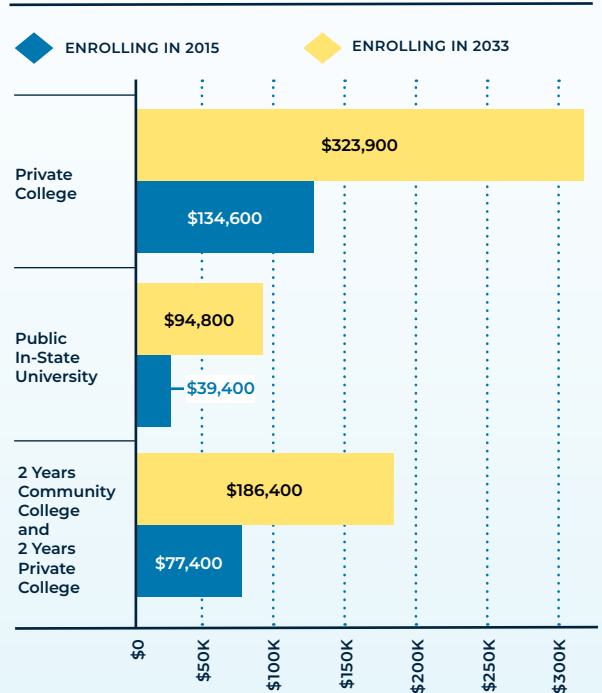


fig.2 4-YEAR AVERAGE TUITION AND FEES: 2015 & 2033



*This hypothetical example illustrates the accumulation potential with a \$2,500 initial investment and a monthly contribution plan at a 5% projected average annual return. The above example is based on projections and does not reflect your actual investment in the NEST Direct College Savings Plan. If fees were included, the returns would be lower. Your actual results may be more or less.

Register for free webinars.

CLASS IS IN SESSION

Learn important end-of-year tax savings strategies and deadlines with the help of our free webinars. Our experts will walk you through strategies for maximizing your tax advantages with a 529.

Register at [NEST529.com/webinars](https://www.nest529.com/webinars).





The gift that needs no wrapping.

If friends and family are out of ideas for what to give your student this holiday season, don't forget they can contribute to your 529 fund. It's quick and easy. Check out the simple instructions at NEST529.com/friends-family-gifting.

NEST 529 students say it best.

This spring, the Nebraska State Treasurer's Office and the Omaha Storm Chasers teamed up to sponsor the Why I Want to Go to College writing contest for 7th and 8th graders. They had a lot to say about chasing dreams and why college matters. Here's just a sample:

"College is...an opportunity to sharpen your mind and make a difference."

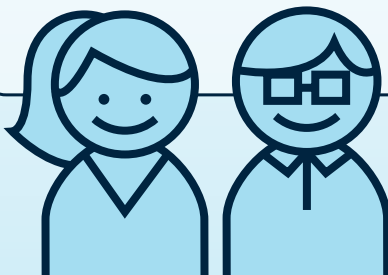
Madison Johnson

"Going to college should be for learning as well as meeting new people and having fun."

Cooper Mroczek

"College will prepare me for life. And I'm ready for that process to begin."

Jordyn Ellison



Can you 529 it?

QUIZ YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Your loved one can use their 529 funds for much more than tuition. But using those savings isn't exactly a free-for-all. Put your knowledge of eligible expenses to the test. Check out the answers on the back of this newsletter.

1. SEASON ATHLETIC TICKETS

Eligible

Not Eligible

2. REQUIRED COMPUTER SOFTWARE

Eligible

Not Eligible

3. LAB EQUIPMENT FOR CLASS

Eligible

Not Eligible

4. BIKE HELMET

Eligible

Not Eligible

5. ROOM AND BOARD

Eligible

Not Eligible

6. NEW CLOTHES FOR SCHOOL

Eligible

Not Eligible

7. CAMPUS GYM MEMBERSHIP

Eligible

Not Eligible

8. NEW LAPTOP

Eligible

Not Eligible

Answers:

1. Not Eligible; 2. Eligible; 3. Eligible; 4. Not Eligible;
5. Eligible; 6. Not Eligible; 7. Not Eligible; 8. Eligible

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 can be obtained at NEST529.com and 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 & 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 a Plan participant 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 & Trust Company, the FDIC, or any other entity. Investment returns are not guaranteed. Account owners in the Plan assume all investment risk, including the potential loss of principal.

¹FinAid.org/savings/tuition-inflation

²College Board. Trends in Higher Education Series: Trends in College Pricing and Student Aid 2020. <https://research.collegeboard.org/pdf/trends-college-pricing-student-aid-2020.pdf>

³Account owners may deduct for Nebraska income tax purposes contributions they make to their own account (and any other accounts they own in the Nebraska Educational Savings Plan Trust) up to an overall maximum of \$10,000 (\$5,000 if married, filing separately). Contributions in excess of \$10,000 cannot be carried over to a future year. For a minor owned or UGMA/UTMA 529 account, the minor is considered the account owner for Nebraska state income tax deduction purposes. The minor must file a Nebraska tax return for the year their contributions are made to be eligible for a tax deduction for their own contributions. In the case of a UGMA/UTMA 529 account, contributions by the parent/guardian listed as the Custodian on the UGMA/UTMA Plan account are also eligible for a Nebraska state tax deduction.

⁴Tutorial – The Real Cost of Higher Education. <https://www.savingforcollege.com/tutorial101/the-real-cost-of-higher-education>

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

(*Except the Bank Savings Static Investment Option Underlying Investment)

