



# from the **NEST**

## ➤ **The Meadowlark Pledge: Growing futures since 2020.**

### **A MESSAGE FROM THE NEBRASKA STATE TREASURER**

Since launching in 2020, the Meadowlark Savings Pledge has been supporting every baby born in Nebraska on their path toward higher education. This year, we're excited to mark six years of helping more than 115,000 babies born to Nebraska residents receive the **\$50 seed contribution** into a state-managed NEST 529 account. We're proud to help families get a head start on saving for their child's educational journey through this statewide commitment.

This pledge reflects Nebraska's belief in the power of education and the importance of starting early. The \$50 may be a small start, but with time, intention, and continued contributions, it can help open doors to strong possibilities.

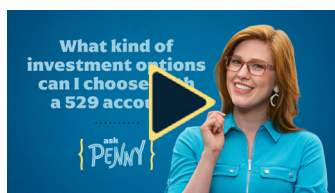


To every parent and guardian who has chosen to build on that first \$50 — congratulations! By planning for your loved one's education, you're helping them chase their dreams and build a brighter future. As we head into 2026, consider setting up recurring contributions or exploring the tools in your account portal to keep your savings on track.



Learn more about the Meadowlark Savings Pledge by visiting [NEST529.com/Meadowlark](https://NEST529.com/Meadowlark) or scanning the QR code to see how this program is helping Nebraska families.

## **Ask Penny: What kind of investment options can I choose with a 529 account?**



In this episode, Penny outlines the basics of NEST 529 investment options.

Watch the full series at [NEST529.com/AskPenny](https://NEST529.com/AskPenny)

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**Set them up to soar.**

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# A smart use for tax refunds.

## GIVE YOUR SAVINGS AN EXTRA BOOST

During the coming spring months, you might be expecting a tax refund. Many families put those extra funds toward well-deserved vacations or gadgets they've been eyeing — but it's also a great opportunity to give your kids or grandkids a more solid foundation for the future.

By putting some (or all) of your refund dollars toward their NEST 529 account, you're making a smart move that can pay off in the long run. Each dollar contributed may grow tax-deferred and is tax-free when used for qualified higher education expenses like tuition, books, supplies, and certain equipment.<sup>1</sup>

Learn more about the tax benefits of your NEST 529 account at [NEST529.com/TaxBenefits](https://NEST529.com/TaxBenefits).

# Make sure you're saving enough in 2026.

Are your savings keeping up with your goals? Consider setting up automatic contributions to keep yourself on track (and review your contribution amounts to make sure you're saving enough).

Make your contributions today at [Portal.NEST529.com](https://Portal.NEST529.com).

# Your spring cleaning list for Financial Literacy Month.



## A LITTLE APRIL HOUSEKEEPING

This Financial Literacy Month, we're celebrating the power of small, intentional habits that can help set you (and your kids) up for big milestones like higher education. With the spring cleaning season around the corner, it's a great time to review your monthly budget, fine-tune your savings strategy, and take these steps to ensure you're making the most of every dollar you invest with NEST 529.



**Tidy Up Automatic Transfers:** If you've set up automatic contributions, take a minute to make sure they're still aligned with your 2026 goals.



**Check Your Progress:** Log in to the NEST 529 portal to remind yourself where you started and how far your savings may have come: [Portal.NEST529.com](https://Portal.NEST529.com).



**Use Our Savings Calculator:** Check in on the cost of college, trade school, and more — and show your kids how you're planning ahead: [NEST529.com/Calculator](https://NEST529.com/Calculator).

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 College Savings Plan Program Disclosure Statement (issuer's official statement), which can be obtained at [NEST529.com](https://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 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 and Trust Company serves as Program Manager for the Plan. Union Bank and Trust Company is registered as a municipal advisor with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB). 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 Underlying Investment 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 and 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.

\*Withdrawals used to pay for qualified higher education expenses are free from federal and Nebraska state income tax. Qualified higher education 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 payment of principal or interest on any qualified education loan of the Beneficiary or a sibling of the Beneficiary (up to an aggregate lifetime limit of \$10,000 per individual). However, earnings on all other types of withdrawals are generally subject to federal and Nebraska state income taxes, and an additional 10% federal tax.

Nebraska law does not treat the following Federal Qualified Higher Education Expenses as Nebraska Qualified Expenses: K-12 Expenses and Qualified Post Secondary Credentialing Expenses. If a withdrawal is made for such purposes, although it is a Federal Qualified Withdrawal, it will be treated as a Nebraska Non-Qualified Withdrawal and may result in the recapture of a previously claimed Nebraska state income tax deduction, and the earnings portion will be subject to Nebraska state income tax. Please consult your tax professional about your particular situation.

**Not FDIC Insured\* | No Bank Guarantee | May Lose Value**  
(\*Except the Bank Savings Underlying Investment)

