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Dear Account Owner,

Now that school is back in session, we thought that we'd focus this edition of **College Savings Update** for the [Minnesota College Savings Plan](#) on some valuable skills your children will need for the future. It's a great time to [teach them about fiscal responsibility](#). Read on for [tips](#) that can help you teach them money habits for life.

It's also an ideal time to make sure your college savings plan is keeping up with the rising costs of tuition. Take advantage of our **NEW helpful calculator** to see how your current savings regimen is doing against your goals. You can also see how changing your contributions, such as monthly or periodic lump sums, may better help you reach your goals.

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Smarter Account Service

Manage your account online ...
it's easy, convenient and secure.

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Learning Center

Money Habits for Life

While your children are learning how to add, subtract and divide in school, you might also want to make sure they are learning the financial fundamentals they'll need to succeed in life. You can help by engaging in simple activities during every stage of your child's development.



Preschoolers

- Play "grocery store" or "bank" with play money.
- Borrow or rent something they need to return.
- Put savings in a jar, pay interest, and let children hold the interest amount in their hands.

Early Elementary

- Compare prices while shopping for something they want.
- Have children clip coupons and give them the amount saved.
- Establish a color-coded spending plan that includes wants, prices, earnings, and money to save, share and spend.

Middle Elementary

- Plan how to share the cost of an item they cannot afford from their earnings.

Give The Gift Of Education



Find upcoming events
near you.

Did You Know?

In today's dollars, a bachelor's degree is worth

If you give allowances, include children in discussing allowance amounts and the items for which the allowance pays.

- Read youth-oriented consumer books and magazines, such as [Zillions](#) from *Consumer Reports*.

more than \$2.1 million over 40 years.*

Early Teens

- Compare the checking and savings account options of different financial institutions.
- Allow children to have discretionary money so they can make decisions and learn from mistakes.
- Help children understand return policies and how to return an item.

Middle/Late Teens

- Let children do the family grocery shopping.
- Before children apply for jobs, discuss work hours with regard to study time and household responsibilities.
- Involve children in getting information for a long-term financing arrangement, such as a car or college.
- Show children how the cost of an item increases when purchased on credit.

We Value Your Feedback

[Please send us your comments and suggestions](#) on editorial topics for future newsletters or how we can make it better for you.

College Industry News



The [Minnesota Office of Higher Education](#) offers terrific resources to Minnesota families planning for college. Visit their website for news and information to help pave your academic and financial planning paths to college.

Gift of Education

Toys and movies make great presents, but how about a gift that a child can really use: the [Gift of Education](#). It's appropriate for celebrating many occasions, including birthdays, graduations or any special day in a child's life.

To give the Gift of Education, [print out the Gift of Education Certificate](#) for friends and family who wish to contribute to your beneficiary's college education. They can complete it with a personal message and present it to your loved one for a gift that keeps on giving.



Automatic Contribution Plan



The [Automatic Contribution Plan](#) was developed to help make contributing to your college savings plan simple and convenient. You simply designate the amount you want to contribute, and then let ACP and time go to work. You can always change your level of contribution as your goals and financial situation change.

It's also easy to increase the amount you contribute, which could help you reach your college savings goals sooner rather than later. To see how setting aside a little extra (even just \$25 a month) can positively affect your college savings plan, use our [College Savings](#)

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* Washington, D.C.-based Employment Policy Foundation

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Consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expense before investing in the Minnesota College Savings Plan. Please visit www.mnsaves.org for a Disclosure Booklet containing this information. Read it carefully.

Before investing in a 529 plan, you should consider whether the state you or your designated beneficiary reside in or have taxable income in has a 529 plan that offers favorable state income tax or other benefits that are only available if you invest in that state's 529 plan.

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