



CALIFORNIA STATE TREASURER BILL LOCKYER

NEWS RELEASE

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Treasurer Lockyer Urges Families to Consider Giving ScholarShare College Savings Plan This Holiday Season

Lower Fees, More Choice Make 529 Plan Attractive Way to Save for College

SACRAMENTO – State Treasurer Bill Lockyer today urged California parents and families to consider as a holiday gift opening or contributing to a ScholarShare College Savings Plan account.

“Obtaining a college degree has become more vital to securing a good job and prosperous future, but at the same time it is becoming less affordable for more Californians. The holiday season is the perfect time for families to help ensure their children can go to college by opening or contributing to a ScholarShare savings account,” said Lockyer. “With recently lowered fees and more investment choices, ScholarShare is a great holiday gift. And for folks looking for a last-minute gift, ScholarShare is perfect, because the entire transaction can be completed easily online.”

ScholarShare, the state’s 529 college savings plan, enables Californians to save for college by putting money in tax-advantaged investments. After-tax contributions allow earnings to grow tax-deferred, and disbursements, when used for tuition and other qualified higher education expenses, are federal and state tax-free.

ScholarShare recently debuted a revamped plan, led by new program manager TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing Inc. (TFI), which features lower fees, more investment options, and a new and easier to use website. Its fees, which range from .18 percent to .62 percent depending on investment option, make it one of the lowest-cost plans in the country.

“The enhanced investment options and fee reductions make ScholarShare an attractive option for any college savings investor,” said Andrea Feirstein, a nationally recognized expert in the 529 college savings market and an advisor to ScholarShare. “Any investor nationwide will find it hard to pass up the attractive investments and cost savings from these fee reductions solely for state tax benefits in their home state’s plan.”

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Accounts may be opened online with as little as \$25. ScholarShare has no annual account maintenance fee, no income limit and offers a high maximum contribution limit of \$350,000. The program currently holds more than \$4.2 billion with more than 300,000 ScholarShare accounts opened since inception.

Lockyer is chair of the ScholarShare Investment Board, which sets investment policies and oversees all activities of ScholarShare. To open an account, or for more information about the plan, visit www.ScholarShare.com. For information about the SIB, visit www.treasurer.ca.gov/scholarshare. Follow ScholarShare on Twitter at [#ScholarShare529](https://twitter.com/ScholarShare529).

The ScholarShare College Savings Plan is administered by the ScholarShare Investment Board (SIB), an agency of the State of California. TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing Inc. (TFI) serves as ScholarShare's investment manager. The money deposited into ScholarShare accounts is not guaranteed by the SIB, TFI, or the state or federal government. Additionally, none of these entities guarantee ScholarShare account holders will earn a return on their investment. ScholarShare investments are municipal securities and may be subject to market volatility and fluctuation.

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