April 2023 my529.org | 800.418.2551

# my529° standard

# Major payoff How much is a degree worth?



**MONEY** 

TALKS, but many people have a hard time talking about money, especially with their kids.

Consider taking a moment during April's Financial Literacy Month for a conversation.

HERE ARE SOME IDEAS YOU COULD USE TO GET STARTED.

#### The value of education

As a my529 account owner, you likely believe in the importance of savings, investments and education. The following chart shows national data for job salaries in 2021, along with the level of education most people had when entering the occupation.

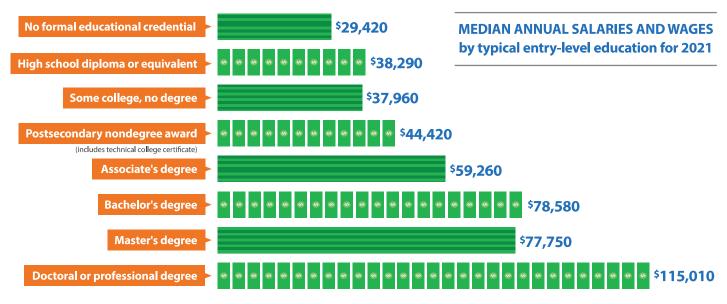
Note that the salary earnings are the median annual wage, or right in the middle, where half of the salaries are below that number and the other half are above.

**Related topic:** What level of postsecondary education is your child interested in pursuing? Their path may change, but a discussion with this context could inform them about the prospective value of education.

#### **Account assessment**

Talk about your child's my529 account with them. Log in to your account to review the account's progress over time, or look at the most recent quarterly statement together. Consider scheduling contributions to automate your participation, and include your child in the effort. If your child has a part-time job or source of income, invite them to contribute.

Talk about how, by contributing consistently, even small amounts, the account has the potential to grow. Discuss their educational goals and the time horizon until they will use the funds.



Data includes nonfarm wage and salary workers. It does not include individuals who are self-employed, owners or partners in unicorporated firms, or household workers. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

# my529 and the market

## PART 2 OF OUR CONVERSATION WITH THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UTAH'S EDUCATIONAL SAVINGS PLAN

S&P 500 vs. US recessions



In our January 2023 newsletter, my529 Executive Director Richard Ellis answered some frequently asked questions about market fluctuation. This is a continuation of our discussion about my529 and the market.

#### How my529's investment options respond to the market

my529's investment options are built with index funds, which track market indexes like the S&P 500 and the Russell 3000.

"The expectation [with index funds] is that you're going to get market returns—if the market's up, you're up. If the market's down, you're down," Ellis said. "But you should be very close to what that index return is."

Index investment options are a less-expensive way of getting market exposure for your investment, Ellis said. Typically, passively managed funds have outperformed actively managed funds over time, which is why my529 built investment options using index funds.

"When an account owner looks at their statement and says, I have less money today than I had a year ago,' put it in context: You're in an index fund that replicates the market; therefore, you're going to have losses that mirror what the market has lost."

While some account owners think my529 actively manages funds, that is not the case. The reality is that my529 has designed a variety of asset allocations that provide diversity, with certain options configured to reduce risk around the time beneficiaries need the funds for qualified expenses.

"But essentially, you're going to get market returns using index funds," Ellis said. At my529, our philosophy is that, over time, index funds will outperform actively managed funds.

my529 doesn't offer any truly actively managed funds, Ellis said, though there are some Dimensional Fund Advisors funds within the Customized options menu that provide an element of it.

#### **Review your resources**

Account owners should review their individual situations and risk tolerance, and evaluate the resources available to pay for college, especially, as Ellis said, if a beneficiary

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# Book your way out of summer boredom

"I'm bored."

It won't be long before kids will be out of school and singing this familiar summer tune.

Before you run yourself ragged trying to keep them entertained, my529 and the Utah State Library want to help you fight the summer slump. Together, they are offering an opportunity to get your children reading — and enter their names in a random drawing for one of six \$1,000 my529 college savings scholarship accounts.

The Book Your Summer reading award is a partnership between my529, Utah's educational savings plan, and the Utah State Library. Enroll your child in your local library's summer reading program for a chance to win a \$1,000 my529 college savings scholarship account.

Six kids up to age 18 throughout the state will be awarded the scholarship accounts. Book Your Summer runs May 1 through July 31, 2023. No purchase is necessary to enter. Official rules and entry forms can be found at *bookyoursummer.com*.

Let my529 help you and your student reach your education and savings goals this summer.



# Scheduled update coming to Target Enrollment Date portfolios

One of the appeals of my529's Target Enrollment Date (TED) investment option is how an account owner can select a certain portfolio, invest regularly and then, essentially, let the option do its thing.

This summer, the TED option will see a new portfolio as part of its regularly scheduled asset allocation update. Read on for a refresher on the TED option and an explanation of what will happen and when.

#### **How TED works**

my529's TED investment option can provide ease and efficiency in investing. The option offers 12 portfolios on a single glide path, with asset allocations that range from aggressive to conservative, and are titled according to the beneficiary's estimated date of enrollment. Account owners can choose a TED portfolio that aligns with their beneficiary's estimated date of enrollment, or they can make a selection based on their risk preference. The allocations adjust quarterly in a planned shift over time toward conservative holdings.

#### **Updates are part of the plan**

By design, every two years the option will offer a new aggressive allocation and, at the other end of the glide path, the portfolio with the most recent date (e.g., 2020/2021) will be folded in to the Enrolled portfolio. This sort of movement between portfolios does not constitute an investment option change. Put simply, the investment option is doing what it is supposed to do—move a beneficiary along a predetermined asset allocation path toward

a specific date while investments automatically adjust and rebalance along the way.

#### Here's what you can expect

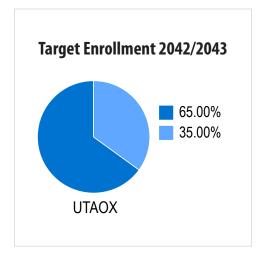
The changes detailed below are automatic. No action on your part is required.

**July 3:** As is customary on the first business day of the quarter, my529 will make the necessary asset allocation adjustments to the TED portfolios. The quarterly change to the 2020/2021 portfolio will result in the asset allocation mirroring the Enrolled portfolio.

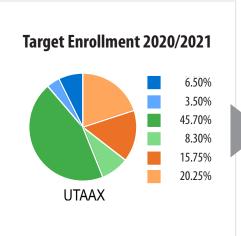
**July 10:** The 2020/2021 portfolio will be transitioned automatically into Enrolled. my529 will inform account owners about the timing of this transaction closer to the date. Account owners will see the transition in their online accounts and quarterly statements. The transition will not count as an option change.

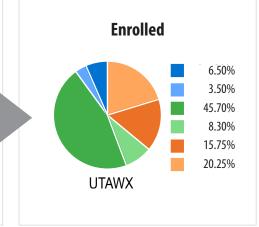
**July 10:** my529 will offer a 2042/2043 portfolio, the first new portfolio since the option was introduced in 2021. This portfolio will now be at the top of the glide path and will have an aggressive, stock-based construction.

**Be advised:** The transition to Enrolled from 2020/2021 will not count as an investment option change. Should you wish to adjust your portfolio before July 3 or after the shift to Enrolled, you may elect to make an option change.



The 2042/2043 portfolio will be added to the Target Enrollment Date option in July.





The 2020/2021 portfolio will be folded into the Enrolled portfolio in July.

### Fund expenses change for 8 Customized offerings

Several funds that correspond with the my529 single-fund portfolios offered in the Customized investment options have updated their underlying fund expenses. The changes announced by Vanguard and Dimensional Fund Advisors became effective February 28, 2023.

Any changes in fund expenses are reflected in the daily cost of the respective my529 portfolios.

Two funds have increased costs. Vanguard raised the underlying fund expense of its International Value Fund (VTRIX) from

0.36% to 0.38%, or \$3.80 per \$1,000 invested annually. VTRIX corresponds to the my529 International Value single-fund portfolio (UTVJX). Dimensional increased the underlying fund expense for Global Allocation 25/75 Portfolio (DGTSX) from 0.23% to 0.25%, or \$2.50 per \$1,000 invested annually. This Dimensional fund comprises the my529 Global Allocation 25/75 portfolio (UTDCX).

At the same time, Dimensional lowered the underlying fund expenses for six of their funds.

Account owners invested in the Customized options do not own the underlying Vanguard and Dimensional funds. They own units of my529 singlefund portfolios that correspond to the underlying funds.

See the changes in the accompanying table for Customized investment options. More information can be found on our website. Check out *my529.org/investment-options/fees-and-expenses/* for details.

Underlying fund	my529 Single-Fund Portfolios	New	Previous	Change
Vanguard International Value Fund (VTRIX)	my529 International Value (UTVJX)	0.38%	0.36%	0.02%
DFA U.S. Large Cap Value Portfolio (DFLVX)	my529 US Large Cap Value (UTDLX)	0.21%	0.22%	-0.01%
DFA International Value Portfolio (DFIVX)	my529 International Value Factor (UTDIX)	0.28%	0.29%	-0.01%
DFA One-Year Fixed Income Portfolio (DFIHX)	my529 One-Year Fixed Income (UTDOX)	0.12%	0.13%	-0.01%
DFA Five-Year Global Fixed Income Portfolio (DFGBX)	my529 Five-Year Global Fixed Income (UTDFX)	0.20%	0.24%	-0.04%
DFA Global Allocation 60/40 Portfolio (DGSIX)	my529 Global Allocation 60/40 (UTDBX)	0.24%	0.25%	-0.01%
DFA Global Allocation 25/75 Portfolio (DGTSX)	my529 Global Allocation 25/75 (UTDCX)	0.25%	0.23%	0.02%
DFA US Sustainability Core 1 Portfolio (DFSIX)	my529 US Sustainability (UTDUX)	0.17%	0.18%	-0.01%

#### continued from page 2

turns 18 and enrolls in college during a volatile market year. Perhaps delaying withdrawals for a short period might allow some time for the market (and your account) to recover.

"Is there another way to pay for college so you don't lock in the loss? Can you get by for a year or two before you have to draw that money down?" Ellis said.

#### **Historic fluctuations**

There have been several years of economic downturn in recent memory. The 2008 housing market crash is not too far in the rearview mirror, and the economic effects of the Covid-19 pandemic are still being felt. While the pinch may feel similar, Ellis said, these two events, from an economic perspective, involve very different circumstances.

The 2008 housing crisis was the result of money being too easy to borrow and people buying houses they could not afford. In contrast, with the onset of the pandemic in March 2020, the equity markets reacted to the shutdown of activities, but they quickly recovered.

To combat the effects of the pandemic-related shutdown, the federal government enacted programs to try to stimulate the economy by flooding the market with money. This resulted in inflation and raising the debt of the federal government.

"We are living through what we created by stimulating the economy," said Ellis.

Ellis emphasized that the economy always goes in cycles. Sometimes those cycles are four years, while other times those cycles are 10 years, but the basics remain similar.

"Realize that markets will go up and will go down. We have to have a long-term vision about what our investment is going to be," Ellis said.

#### **Looking forward**

"Past performance is no predictor of future performance, so next year could be a negative return, too. But looking over the time frame of (nearly 100 years to now), it's not often that we see back-to-back negative returns in the stock market. This time may be different, but it's something to look at and say, what does this trend look like historically?" Ellis said.



#### Richard K. Ellis

Executive Director of my529; former Utah state treasurer; former Utah chief deputy state treasurer; former director, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, Utah Govs. Olene S. Walker and Jon M. Huntsman Jr.; former member, Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board; former president, National Association of State Treasurers; and current president of the Utah Retirement Systems Board of Trustees.



#### **Investment Option Performance as of March 31, 2023**

my529's historical and monthly returns are available online at my529.org.

Static Investment Options	Ticker	Latest Month	Latest Three Months	Year to Date 1	One Year	Average Annualized Return 2				Inception
	Symbol					Three Year	Five Year	Ten Year	Since Inception	Date 3
Total US Stock Market	UTSTX	2.63%	7.14%	7.14%	-8.86%	16.52%	9.94%	11.51%	6.50%	09/20/1999
Global Equity 90/10 US & International	UTSNX	2.63%	7.10%	7.10%	-8.41%	18.45%	8.91%	10.41%	10.18%	04/01/2003
Global Equity 70/30 US & International	UTSSX	2.63%	7.01%	7.01%	-7.52%	16.39%	7.91%	9.51%	9.49%	10/03/2008
80/20 Aggressive	UTSAX	2.48%	6.10%	6.10%	-5.97%	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.12%	03/04/2021
60/40 Balanced	UTSBX	2.29%	5.19%	5.19%	-5.00%	N/A	N/A	N/A	-0.43%	03/04/2021
40/60 Moderate	UTSMX	2.14%	4.32%	4.32%	-3.85%	N/A	N/A	N/A	-0.96%	03/04/2021
20/80 Conservative	UTSCX	1.94%	3.40%	3.40%	-3.06%	2.66%	2.55%	N/A	3.04%	06/21/2013
Fixed Income	UTSFX	1.74%	2.48%	2.48%	-2.29%	-1.07%	1.54%	1.41%	3.13%	09/09/2002
FDIC-Insured	UTSIX	0.43%	1.18%	1.18%	2.84%	1.40%	1.88%	1.36%	1.18%	02/11/2009
Stable Value	UTSSVX	0.15%	0.43%	0.43%	1.67%	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.57%	03/04/2021
Customizad	Ticker	Latest	Latest	Vear to	One	Average Annualized Return 2			Incention	

Customized	Ticker Latest		Latest	Year to	One	Average Annualized Return 2 Inceptio				
Investment Options	Symbol	Month	Three	Date 1	Year	Three	Five	Ten	Since	Date 3
·	_		Months			Year	Year	Year	Inception	
my529 Global Equity	UTDGX	1.04%	5.65%	5.65%	-5.76%	19.20%	7.19%	N/A	8.99%	06/21/2013
my529 Global Allocation 60/40	UTDBX	1.22%	4.20%	4.20%	-4.32%	11.11%	5.09%	N/A	5.62%	02/02/2015
my529 Global Allocation 25/75	UTDCX	1.33%	2.84%	2.84%	-2.26%	4.38%	2.86%	N/A	2.93%	02/02/2015
my529 Total Stock Market Index	UTVTX	2.63%	7.13%	7.13%	-8.88%	18.21%	10.22%	11.52%	12.47%	02/01/2010
my529 Institutional Index	UTVLX	3.66%	7.45%	7.45%	-7.88%	18.40%	10.99%	12.03%	12.72%	02/01/2010
my529 Growth Index	UTVGX	7.77%	17.21%	17.21%	-12.73%	17.30%	12.71%	N/A	13.70%	06/21/2013
my529 Value Index	UTVVX	-0.50%	-1.03%	-1.03%	-4.12%	18.53%	8.68%	N/A	10.25%	06/21/2013
my529 US Large Cap Value	UTDLX	-1.90%	0.42%	0.42%	-5.15%	20.54%	6.29%	N/A	9.25%	06/21/2013
my529 Mid Cap Index	UTVMX	-1.12%	3.84%	3.84%	-9.97%	18.57%	7.97%	10.00%	11.74%	02/01/2010
my529 Small Cap Index	UTVSX	-3.62%	3.70%	3.70%	-9.44%	19.51%	6.61%	9.01%	11.21%	02/01/2010
my529 Small Cap Growth Index	UTVKX	-0.91%	8.16%	8.16%	-12.14%	13.33%	6.15%	N/A	8.75%	06/21/2013
my529 Small Cap Value Index	UTVUX	-5.56%	0.61%	0.61%	-7.74%	23.69%	6.21%	N/A	9.02%	06/21/2013
my529 US Small Cap Value	UTDSX	-7.14%	-0.10%	-0.10%	-3.64%	31.05%	7.02%	N/A	8.32%	06/21/2013
my529 FTSE Social Index	UTVFX	4.19%	9.79%	9.79%	-10.15%	17.50%	11.01%	N/A	11.22%	07/14/2017
my529 US Sustainability	UTDUX	0.92%	6.31%	6.31%	-6.34%	20.08%	10.63%	N/A	11.08%	07/14/2017
my529 Real Estate Securities	UTDRX	-1.75%	1.74%	1.74%	-19.54%	10.01%	6.40%	N/A	7.03%	06/21/2013
my529 Total International Stock Index	UTVIX	2.62%	6.63%	6.63%	-4.72%	12.55%	2.37%	4.29%	3.50%	05/06/2011
my529 Developed Markets Index	UTVDX	2.63%	7.75%	7.75%	-3.04%	13.70%	3.29%	5.08%	5.51%	02/01/2010
my529 Emerging Markets Stock Index	UTVEX	2.54%	3.59%	3.59%	-9.20%	9.39%	-0.11%	N/A	3.45%	06/21/2013
my529 International Growth	UTVWX	5.44%	12.46%	12.46%	-6.94%	13.31%	6.36%	8.58%	8.59%	02/01/2010
my529 International Value	UTVJX	2.71%	8.61%	8.61%	0.99%	15.12%	3.02%	4.76%	4.89%	02/01/2010
my529 International Value Factor	UTDIX	-0.70%	6.09%	6.09%	0.26%	20.32%	2.68%	N/A	5.02%	06/21/2013
my529 Five-Year Global Fixed Income	UTDFX	0.90%	1.39%	1.39%	-0.90%	-1.85%	0.04%	N/A	0.32%	04/16/2015
my529 Total Bond Market Index	UTVBX	2.56%	3.14%	3.14%	-4.81%	-2.95%	0.74%	1.14%	2.08%	02/01/2010
my529 Total International Bond Index	UTVOX	2.33%	3.54%	3.54%	-5.17%	-2.92%	0.10%	N/A	1.71%	02/03/2014
my529 High-Yield Corporate	UTVHX	1.44%	3.16%	3.16%	-2.09%	4.45%	3.00%	N/A	2.58%	07/14/2017
my529 Short-Term Bond Index	UTVNX	1.90%	1.90%	1.90%	-0.44%	-0.98%	1.11%	N/A	1.03%	06/21/2013
my529 One-Year Fixed Income	UTDOX	0.66%	1.15%	1.15%	1.08%	-0.13%	0.75%	N/A	0.55%	06/21/2013
my529 Short-Term Investment-Grade	UTVAX	1.53%	1.85%	1.85%	-0.30%	0.59%	1.42%	1.42%	1.60%	08/01/2011
my529 Short-Term Inflation-Protected Sec Index	UTVPX	1.92%	2.25%	2.25%	-0.43%	3.29%	2.79%	N/A	1.64%	02/03/2014
my529 FDIC-Insured Portfolio	UTFIX	0.42%	1.18%	1.18%	2.81%	1.38%	1.85%	1.33%	1.19%	02/01/2010
my529 Stable Value	UTPSVX	0.14%	0.43%	0.43%	1.64%	1.73%	N/A	N/A	2.12%	08/17/2018

The information above shows the returns for the following underlying investments and are net of the my529 Administrative Asset Fee. Returns on an account invested in the Customized Age-Based or Customized Static investment options will depend upon the underlying investment allocation chosen by the account owner/agent. In addition, individual account performance will vary based on the timing of the investments in the investment option, any cash flow in or out of the my529 account during the investment period, and on the balances in the my529 accounts.

#### Important Information Regarding Investments in my529

The performance returns shown in the table above are based on a \$10,000 beginning account balance, assuming the money was invested on the first day and held until the last day of each period shown. These returns only reflect the performance returns of a hypothetical \$10,000 investment for a particular investment option over the stated period of time reflected in the table, not for individual accounts. Individual account performance will vary based on the timing of the initial and subsequent investments, withdrawals (if any), and the account balances.

The returns shown above (a) take into account the underlying investment performance for each period; (b) show applicable interest and dividends; and (c) are net of the Administrative Asset Fee charged by my529 during such periods. Beginning on January 1, 2010, and ending on September 30, 2014, the Administrative Maintenance Fee of up to \$15 annually was not reflected on the returns. For Static investment options, performance returns shown above assume that (a) prior to January 1, 2007, the investment options did not rebalance; (b) beginning January 1, 2007, and ending December 31, 2012, investment options rebalanced on January 1 of each year to match the target allocations for each investment option in effect at the time; and (c) beginning January 1, 2013, investment returns are based on the aggregate market value of the investment options, which reflect the actual investment rebalancing that took place on the birthday of each beneficiary. For these reasons and the reasons stated above, the actual returns in an individual account will not match those shown in the tables. Past performance does not guarantee future results.

#### Notes

- 1. Year-to-date calculations are based on a calendar year; January 1 to the current month-end date.
  2. Average Annualized Returns for investment options with an inception date in the past 12 months are cumulative and non-annualized.
- The inception date is the first date that (a) the investment option was offered and/or received a contribution, or (b) the underlying fund was offered as part of either the Customized Age-Based or Customized Static investment options



#### Investment Option Performance as of March 31, 2023

my529's historical and monthly returns are available online at my529.org.

Target-Enrollment Investment Options	Ticker Symbol	Latest Month	Latest Three Months	Year to Date 1	One Year	Average Annualized Return 2				Inception
						Three Year	Five Year	Ten Year	Since Inception	Date 3
Target Enrollment 2040/2041	UTANX	2.64%	7.00%	7.00%	-7.26%	N/A	N/A	N/A	-4.66%	07/15/2021
Target Enrollment 2038/2039	UTAMX	2.63%	6.99%	6.99%	-7.27%	N/A	N/A	N/A	-4.96%	07/15/2021
Target Enrollment 2036/2037	UTALX	2.56%	6.65%	6.65%	-7.31%	N/A	N/A	N/A	-5.00%	07/15/2021
Target Enrollment 2034/2035	UTAKX	2.48%	6.20%	6.20%	-6.68%	N/A	N/A	N/A	-4.73%	07/15/2021
Target Enrollment 2032/2033	UTAJX	2.39%	5.72%	5.72%	-6.16%	N/A	N/A	N/A	-4.58%	07/15/2021
Target Enrollment 2030/2031	UTAIX	2.30%	5.26%	5.26%	-5.65%	N/A	N/A	N/A	-4.41%	07/15/2021
Target Enrollment 2028/2029	UTAGX	2.21%	4.81%	4.81%	-5.13%	N/A	N/A	N/A	-4.24%	07/15/2021
Target Enrollment 2026/2027	UTAEX	2.12%	4.35%	4.35%	-4.62%	N/A	N/A	N/A	-4.08%	07/15/2021
Target Enrollment 2024/2025	UTADX	1.99%	3.84%	3.84%	-4.23%	N/A	N/A	N/A	-4.00%	07/15/2021
Target Enrollment 2022/2023	UTABX	1.85%	3.31%	3.31%	-3.39%	N/A	N/A	N/A	-3.51%	07/15/2021
Target Enrollment 2020/2021	UTAAX	1.75%	2.83%	2.83%	-2.93%	N/A	N/A	N/A	-3.42%	07/15/2021
Enrolled	UTAWX	1.73%	2.71%	2.71%	-2.40%	N/A	N/A	N/A	-3.26%	07/15/2021

#### **Important Legal Notice**

Investing is an important decision. The investments in your account may vary with market conditions and could lose value. Carefully read the Program Description in its entirety for more information and consider all investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses before investing. For a copy of the Program Description, call 800.418.2551 or visit my529.org.

Investments in my529 are not insured or guaranteed by my529, the Utah Board of Higher Education, the Utah Higher Education Assistance Authority Board of Directors, any other state or federal agency, or any third party. However, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) insurance is provided for the FDIC-Insured investment option. In addition, my529 offers investment options that are partially insured for the portion of the respective investment option that includes FDIC-insured accounts as an underlying investment.

The state in which you or your beneficiary pay taxes or live may offer a 529 plan that provides state tax or other benefits, such as financial aid, scholarship funds and protection from creditors, not otherwise available to you by investing in my529. You should consider such benefits, if any, before investing in my529.

my529 does not provide legal, financial, investment or tax advice. You should consult your own tax or legal advisor to determine the effect of federal and state tax laws on your particular situation.

#### Extra credit: Tax benefit limits raised

Utah has raised the maximum my529 contribution amounts eligible for a state tax credit.

Effective January 1, 2023, individuals qualify for a Utah state tax credit for contribution amounts up to \$2,290 per qualified beneficiary.

For Utah-based trusts and flow-through entities, the maximum contribution amount eligible for the tax credit is also \$2,290 per qualified beneficiary.

Corporations are limited to a \$2,290 deduction for contributions.

The maximum contribution amount for the tax credit for married couples filing a joint return, and for Utah-based trusts whose grantor filing status is married and filing jointly, is \$4,580 per qualified beneficiary.

The tax credit for 2023 is 4.65% of the total year's contribution, up to the maximum contribution amount. The Utah Legislature changed the tax rate this year from 4.85% to 4.65%.

Tax Filer	2023 Maximum Allowable Contribution for a Utah State Income Tax Credit	2023 Maximum Utah State Income Tax Credit per Beneficiary (4.65%)
Single	\$2,290	\$106.48
Joint	\$4,580	\$212.97
Trusts	\$2,290	\$106.48
Grantor Trust, Married Filing Jointly	\$4,580	\$212.97
Flow-Through Entities	\$2,290	\$106.48
Corporation	\$2,290	\$2,290 (Deduction)

## my529 offices are closed for the following holidays

**Memorial Day** 

Monday, May 29, 2023

Juneteenth

Monday, June 19, 2023

**Independence Day** 

Tuesday, July 4, 2023

**Pioneer Day** 

Monday, July 24, 2023

#### Contact my529

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