

Bloomwell

NEWS

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LONG-TERM INVESTING AND MARKET VOLATILITY

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The start of 2022 has been accompanied by a rapidly-changing, volatile market. Based on the market's performance in the long run, it's not uncommon to see pull backs and volatility after a period of exceptionally strong markets like we've experienced since early to mid-2009. Here are some steps you can take to make sure your college savings efforts stay on track, despite the day-to-day ups and downs:

- 1 **Determine your risk levels.** Volatile markets are a normal part of investing and saving, so it's important to find a level of risk you're comfortable with. With the very strong markets this past decade, it's also possible we'll see returns start to be more muted going forward. Make sure to have realistic expectations for future returns.
- 2 **Diversify your portfolio.** Spreading out your investments can help mitigate some of those risks. Bloomwell 529 offers a number of investment options that can help strengthen your portfolio and set a foundation for future savings. Visit with your investment professional for their expertise, advice, and guidance regarding your overall investment strategy.
- 3 **Focus on the long term.** Keeping your eyes on the future helps put things in perspective and is a good way to remind yourself why you're saving in the first place. Stay disciplined and continue investing in your loved one's future — and if you can, consider increasing your contribution amount. Your future self (and your loved one) will thank you.



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CUT DOWN ON PAPER STATEMENTS

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TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR TAX REFUND

PUT LEFTOVER FUNDS TOWARD COLLEGE SAVINGS

Finished with your 2021 taxes? Consider putting all or part of your refund toward college savings. Don't forget that contributions to a Bloomwell 529 plan grow tax-deferred and are tax-free when you use them for qualified higher education expenses.¹ So they aren't just a smart move for the future — they're one of the best ways to make the most of every dollar.

Learn more at Bloomwell529.com/TaxBenefits

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 Bloomwell 529 Education Savings Plan Program Disclosure Statement (issuer's official statement), which can be obtained at Bloomwell529.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 Bloomwell 529 Education 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. 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. 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.

¹Withdrawals 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; and apprenticeship program expenses. However, earnings on all other types of withdrawals are generally subject to federal and Nebraska state income taxes, and an additional 10% federal tax. Please consult your tax professional about your particular situation.

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