



MFS® 529 Savings Plan



# Life Lessons

Pursue one of life's important goals with a smart plan

You know how important an education can be in opening minds and doors. You also know how expensive it can be. Saving for education expenses early and regularly can help you be financially prepared.

Let the following lessons serve as a guide to help you make educational planning decisions.



## Lesson One

# Consider a Smart Way to Save

The MFS<sup>®</sup> 529 Savings Plan<sup>1</sup> is an easy choice for education planning for many reasons

Earnings are tax deferred.

Withdrawals are free from federal tax if used for qualified education expenses.<sup>2</sup>

You get a wide range of investment options, including MFS<sup>®</sup> Asset Allocation Funds and risk-based investment options.<sup>3</sup>

You control the assets and have the right to change the beneficiary.<sup>4</sup>

You can contribute up to \$17,000 per year.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup>(\$34,000 per married couple) per beneficiary without any federal gift tax consequences).

Or you can take advantage of the unique accelerated gifting feature of a 529 plan by making a combined five-year gift of up to \$85,000 (\$170,000 per married couple) to each beneficiary in a single year. You will not have any federal gift tax consequences as long as no additional gifts are made to the beneficiary for the four years after the year during which you make the gift.<sup>5</sup>

There is a \$25 annual account fee associated with the MFS 529 Savings Plan. This annual fee is waived for Oregon residents and, to the extent approved by the Board, sub-accounts of Omnibus Accounts. Other waivers may apply; check with your investment professional. Investments in 529 plans involve investment risks. You should consider your financial needs, goals and risk tolerance prior to investing.

Depending on your state of residence and the state of residence of the beneficiary, an investment in the MFS 529 Savings Plan may not afford you or your beneficiary state tax benefits or other benefits available for investments in that state's qualified tuition program. State benefits may include financial aid, scholarship funds and protection from creditors. State tax treatment may differ from the federal tax treatment. See your tax advisor to be sure you understand the tax issues related to a 529 plan.

Withdrawals of earnings not used to pay for qualified higher education expenses are subject to an additional 10% federal tax penalty. State taxes may also apply.

<sup>1</sup> The MFS<sup>®</sup> 529 Savings Plan is a flexible education savings investing plan sponsored by the State of Oregon, acting by and through the Oregon 529 Savings Board, and is part of the Oregon Treasury Savings Network. Vestwell State Savings LLC<sup>®</sup> is the Program Manager and record-keeper of the plan. The Program Manager may designate other firms to perform certain duties, including the Bank of New York Mellon as the Recordkeeper of the Plan. MFS Investment Management serves as the investment manager of the plan, and its affiliate, MFS Fund Distributors, Inc. is the distributor.

<sup>2</sup> For funds withdrawn for enrollment or attendance at an elementary or secondary public, private or religious school, only \$10,000 per year per beneficiary will be free from federal tax. Withdrawals not used for qualified higher education expenses are subject to both income taxes and a 10% federal tax penalty on earnings. State taxes may also apply.

<sup>3</sup> Each investment option invests in one or more MFS mutual funds.

<sup>4</sup> When changing beneficiaries, the new beneficiary must be a member of the prior beneficiary's family. Gift taxes could apply if the new beneficiary is of a younger generation than that of the prior beneficiary.

<sup>5</sup> Consult your tax advisor about gift taxes and reporting. Amounts in an account that were considered completed gifts by the account owner will not be included in the account owner's gross estate for federal estate tax purposes. However, if the account owner elected to treat the gifts as having been made over a five-year period and dies before the end of the five-year period, the portion of the contribution allocable to the remaining years in the five-year period are eligible for inclusion in computing the account owner's gross estate for federal estate tax purposes. Gift limits current as of June 1, 2023; tax rules are subject to change.

MFS does not provide legal, tax, or accounting advice. Clients of MFS should obtain their own independent tax and legal advice based on their particular circumstances.

## Lesson Two

# Seek to Have the Reward Outweigh the Cost

### Plan for the future

The MFS 529 Savings Plan can help keep educational goals in reach. 529 plans can be used to pay for qualified expenses such as tuition, fees, room, board, books and required supplies at accredited colleges, universities and vocational schools across the country. Funds from a 529 plan may also be used for tuition for an elementary or secondary public, private or religious school, but only \$10,000 per year per beneficiary will be free from federal tax.

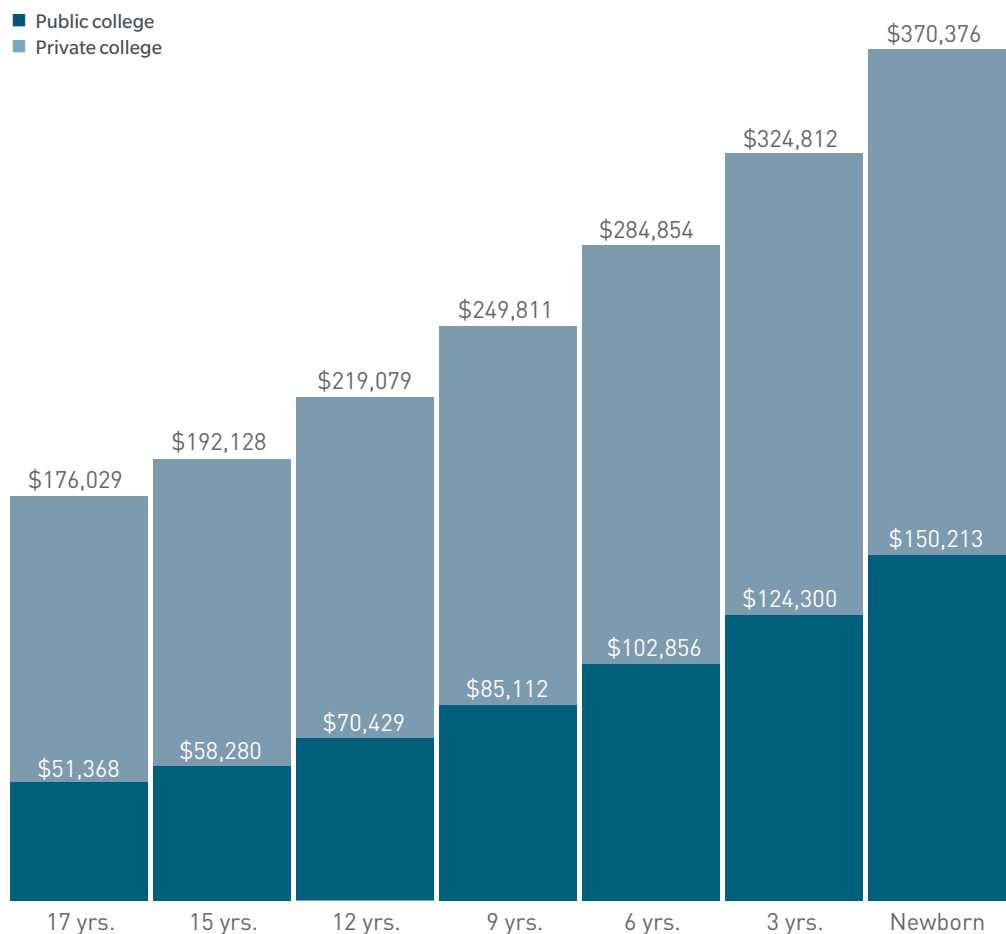
### The cost of private and public college<sup>1</sup>

As of the 2022–2023 school year, the average cost of tuition for four years at a private college was \$168,493. The average cost of tuition for four years at an in-state public college was \$48,226.<sup>1</sup> Participation in the plan does not guarantee that contributions and the investment return on contributions, if any, will be adequate to cover future tuition and other higher education expenses.

### The rewards<sup>2</sup>

#### Median annual earnings by educational level

- Not a high school grad  
\$35,800
- High school grad  
\$44,300
- Associate's degree  
\$52,100
- Bachelor's Degree or higher  
\$121,600



<sup>1</sup> Source: MFS calculations based on data from College Board's Trends in College Pricing 2022, using average tuition and fees for only a four-year period. Calculations assume private college costs will increase 4.5% per year and public college costs will increase 6.5% per year on average. Estimates for future college costs assume a fixed rate of increase based on an average of the past 15 years. Year-over-year percentage increases are used in both categories. For illustrative purposes only.

<sup>2</sup> Sources: College Board's Education Pays 2023 (most recent data available) US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2022 Annual Social and Economic Supplement; calculations by the authors.



## Lesson Three Make It a Family Affair

### Parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle or family friend

No matter who you are, you can establish a 529 plan to help a student with future education expenses. You can even set one up for yourself if you are planning to go back to school. There are no age, income or state of residency restrictions with an MFS 529 Savings Plan. Some states may offer favorable state tax treatments or other benefits only to residents who invest in the 529 plan of that state. You should consult with your tax advisor.

For as little as \$250, you can open an MFS 529 Savings Plan account. With no minimum for additional contributions, our systematic investment program makes it easy and affordable for individuals to save for education. By making monthly contributions to a 529 plan, you will be taking a disciplined, tax-deferred investing route to funding your plan.

The MFS 529 Savings Plan's Investor Portal makes it easy for parents, grandparents, relatives and friends to automate their gifting through the establishment of a periodic investment plan. Givers have full control over the amount and frequency, and have the ability to modify the settings at any time.

### Greater growth potential

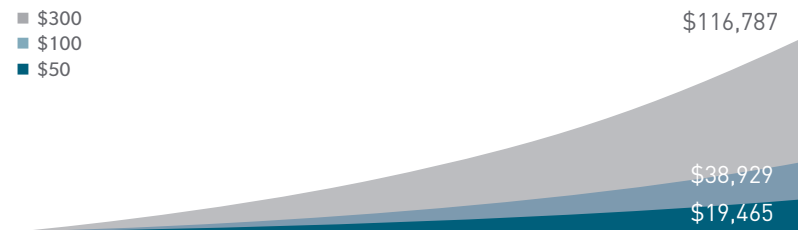
An investment growing tax deferred has the potential to accumulate much more money over a long period of time.



Growth of \$10,000 over 18 years at a 6% annual return compounded monthly

### A little goes a long way

Investing a set amount of money each month can really add up over time.



Growth over 18 years at a 6% annual return compounded monthly

These examples are for illustrative purposes only and are not intended to predict the returns of any investment choices. Rates of return will vary over time, particularly for long-term investments. There is no guarantee that the selected rate of return can be achieved. Any underlying investments of a 529 plan may have fees and expenses that are not taken into account in these illustrations. The performance of the investments will fluctuate with market conditions. Regular investing does not ensure a profit or protect against loss in declining markets. Investors should consider their ability to continue purchasing shares during periods of low price levels.





## Lesson Four

# Education Through Generations

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### TYRONE

1

Mr. and Mrs. Anderson make a gift to a 529 account for their grandson **TYRONE** on his eighth birthday.<sup>1</sup>

2

Ten years later, **TYRONE** graduates from high school and attends a four-year public college, during which he uses a portion of his 529 account to pay for qualified expenses.<sup>2</sup>

3

After **TYRONE** graduates, the Andersons transfer ownership of the account to him with a letter of instruction.<sup>2</sup>

### LILY

4

Tyrone marries his high school sweetheart and their daughter **LILY** is born.

5

Tyrone and his wife change the beneficiary on the 529 account to **LILY**.<sup>1,3</sup>

6

At age 18, **LILY** attends a four-year public college, using the funds in her 529 account to help pay for her education.<sup>2</sup>

### A plan to pass it on

Consider this example of how the 529 gifting feature can be used to help multiple family members and generations attend college.

These examples are for illustrative purposes only and are not intended to predict the returns of any investment choices. The illustration assumes Tyrone's college costs are not funded entirely from a 529. Any underlying investments of a 529 plan may have fees and expenses that are not taken into account in these illustrations. The performance of the investments will fluctuate with market conditions. Regular investing does not ensure a profit or protect against loss in declining markets. Investors should consider their ability to continue purchasing shares during periods of low price levels. The IRS has not provided guidance addressing this specific scenario; consult your tax advisor.

<sup>1</sup> A single person can contribute up to \$85,000 in one year per beneficiary; a married couple can contribute up to \$170,000 in one year per beneficiary with no gift tax consequences. Such a contribution will be considered a five-year accelerated annual exclusion gift, so no additional gifts can be made for that beneficiary for the next four years without incurring gift tax implications unless the annual gift exclusion increases. The gift amount and subsequent appreciation, however, are removed from your taxable estate. (A portion of the contribution amount may be included in the donor's taxable-estate calculation if the donor should die within the five-year period.) Consult your tax advisor about your gift tax situation, tax consequences and reporting.

<sup>2</sup> Earnings are tax-deferred and, if used for qualified higher education expenses (such as tuition, room and board, required computers, books and supplies), are not subject to federal income tax. For funds withdrawn for enrollment or attendance at an elementary or secondary public, private or religious school, only \$10,000 per year per beneficiary will be free from federal tax.

<sup>3</sup> Consult your tax-advisor regarding gift tax consequences of changing the beneficiary of a 529 account to a member of a younger generation.

State taxation of distributions may not follow federal rules. Withdrawals not used for qualified higher education expenses are subject to both income taxes and a 10% federal tax penalty on earnings. State taxes may also apply.

There are no guarantees that 529 plans will be in existence 40 years from now. The rules governing 529 accounts are subject to change. Report gifts on your federal tax return. The illustration does not consider any state taxes that may apply.

## Lesson Five

# Ask a Professional

### Make educated decisions

Education savings programs come in many shapes and sizes today. That's why the insight and guidance of a financial advisor or investment professional is so valuable. He or she will help you choose the right plan and then help you select the investment options that best fit your needs and tolerance for risk. Consult your tax professional for tax advice applicable to your particular circumstances.

	MFS 529 SAVINGS PLAN	UGMA/UTMA
<b>Income tax treatment</b>	Withdrawals are federal tax free if used for qualified higher education expenses <sup>1</sup>	Earnings are taxed at the beneficiary's rate
<b>Contribution limits</b>	Up to \$400,000 account balance per beneficiary	None
<b>Income limits</b>	No limits	No limits
<b>Control of assets</b>	Account owner	Custodian until child reaches majority, then the child
<b>Investment flexibility</b>	Move assets among investment options twice each calendar year or when changing beneficiaries	Move assets as often as you want, but each transfer is usually a taxable event
<b>Estate planning features</b>	Assets are transferred out of the owner's estate, owner retains control	Assets are transferred out of the estate
<b>Uses</b>	Can be used for almost any accredited post-secondary school, elementary or secondary public, private or religious school <sup>1</sup>	No restrictions
<b>Ability to change beneficiaries</b>	Can be transferred to another member of the same family without penalty <sup>2</sup>	Not permitted
<b>Penalties on nonqualified withdrawals</b>	Ordinary income taxes and a 10% IRS penalty on earnings	None
<b>State tax credit</b>	Yes, for Oregon taxpayers*	No
<b>Annual fee</b>	\$25 annual fee, waived for residents of Oregon and to the extent approved by the Board, sub-accounts of Omnibus Accounts.†	Differs, depending upon funding vehicle

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<sup>2</sup> Gift taxes could apply if the new beneficiary is of a younger generation than that of the prior beneficiary.

\* Oregon taxpayers may receive a state tax credit for contributions to accounts in the Network of up to \$170 (\$340 if filing jointly). The amount the taxpayer must contribute to get the full credit increases based on the taxpayer's income. The Oregon Department of Revenue will periodically adjust the amount of the credit for inflation. For additional state and local tax considerations, please refer to the Participant Agreement and Disclosure Statement.

† Other waivers may apply. Check with your financial advisor or investment professional.



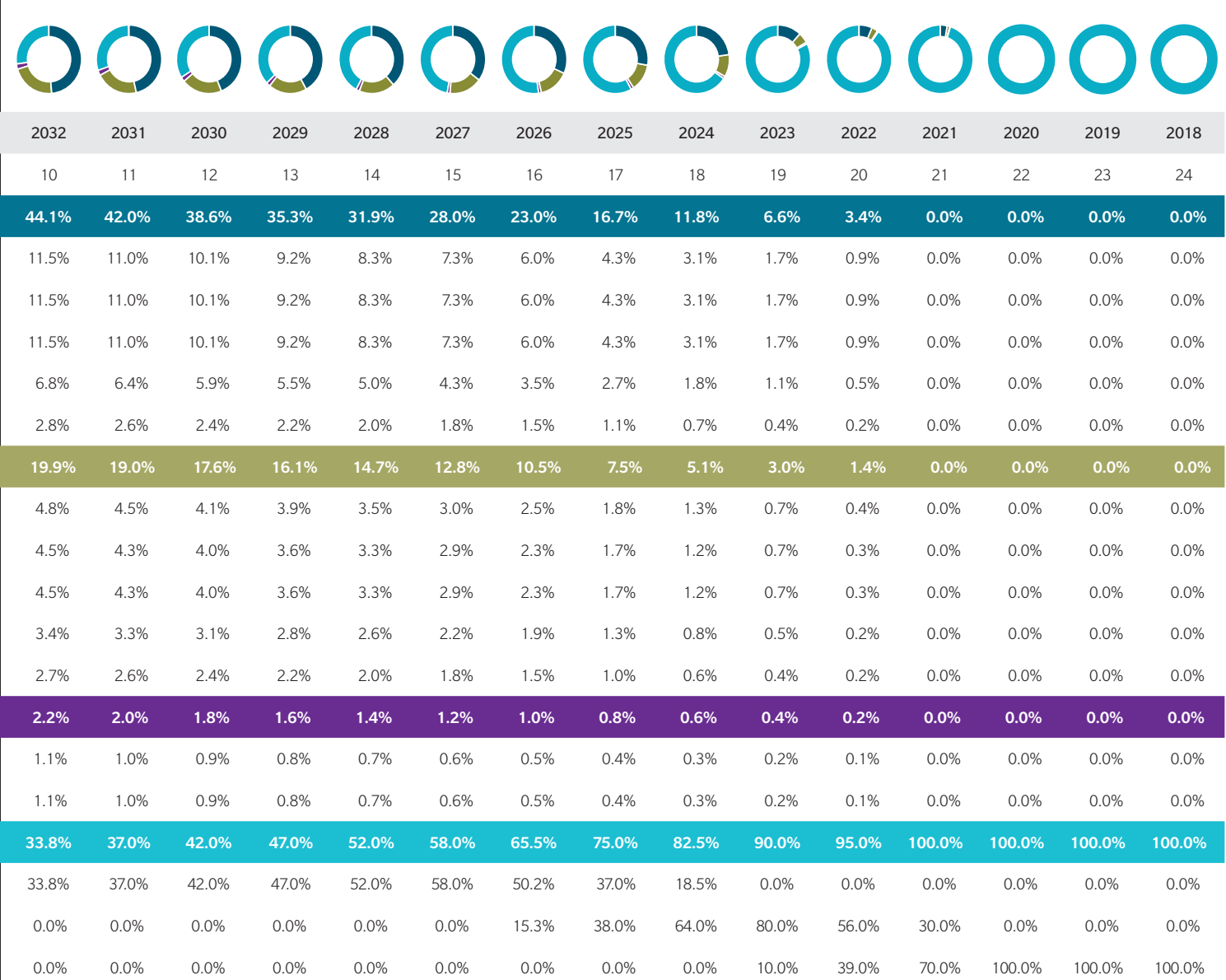






# 1. Enrollment Year Investment Options

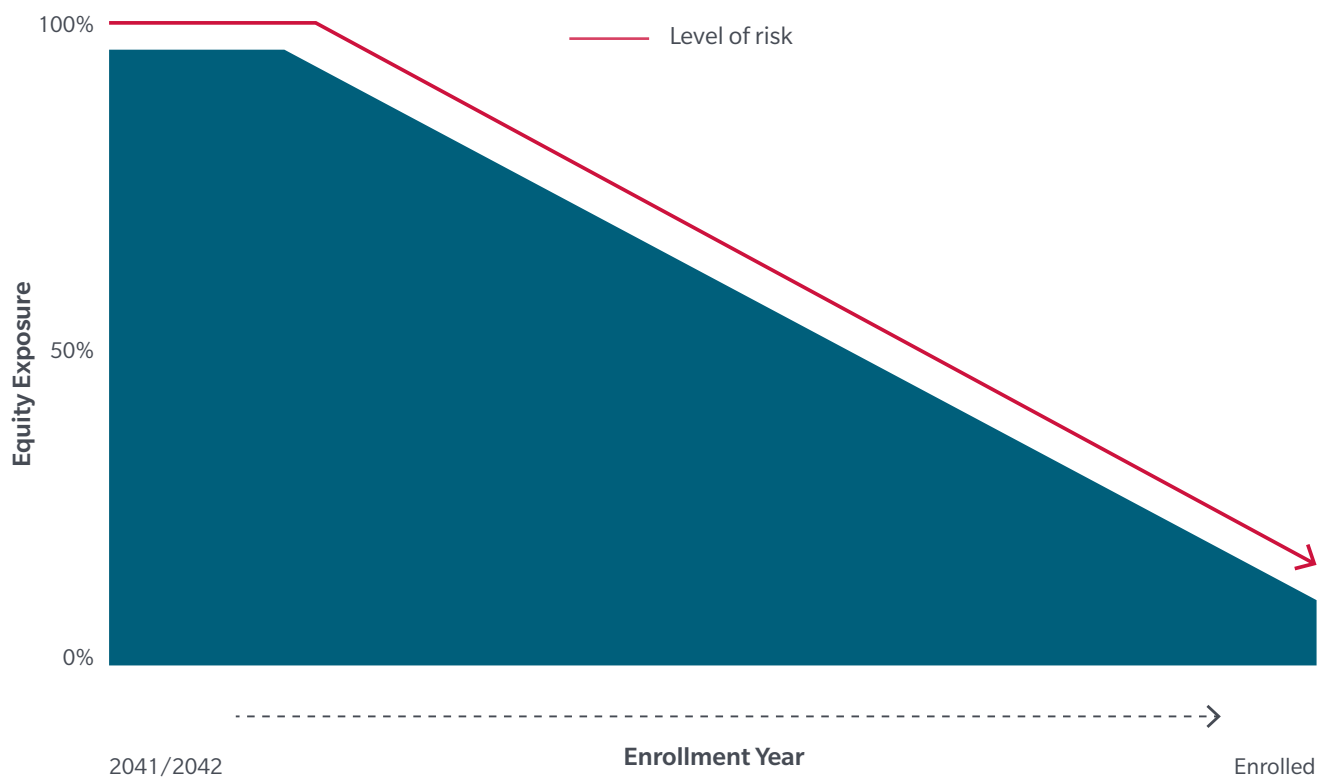
The enrollment year portfolios employ a “set it and forget it” approach, with target year options that eliminate the need for investors to exchange funds as they approach the date their plans for helping those they designate come to fruition. The plan offers 25 enrollment year portfolios, from MFS 529 Enrollment Year 2018 through MFS 529 Enrollment Year 2042.





Similar to target date funds used by retirement plans, enrollment year portfolios provide investors with the option to choose a fund based on the beneficiary's expected college enrollment year or the date when money will be needed for tuition and other education expenses. Employing a quarterly reallocation process, each enrollment year fund's investment focus gradually shifts from seeking asset growth to capital preservation as the beneficiary moves closer to college age.

### Enrollment Year Glide Path







## MFS 529 Savings Plan Advantages

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Tax-advantaged investing, asset control, a wide range of investment options and experienced management help make the MFS 529 Savings Plan the right choice for many families.

### Flexibility

- There is a high contribution limit until the account balance reaches \$400,000 and a low initial minimum contribution of \$250. There is no minimum for additional contributions. The low minimums make it an affordable way to invest.
- You may reallocate your contributions and earnings among investment options twice per calendar year or upon a change to the designated beneficiary of the account.

### Choice

Refer to the application for portfolio selection.

- Enrollment Year Investment Option
- Risk-Based Investment Option

### Control

- The account owner retains control over the assets, unlike some other types of investment accounts typically established for children.
- The account owner may choose to change the beneficiary.
- The account owner may contribute funds from existing accounts such as UGMA/UTMA accounts into an MFS 529 Savings Plan.

### Global asset management

A wide-reaching global research platform:

- More than 200 investment management professionals monitoring securities worldwide
- Research offices in Boston, Hong Kong, London, Luxembourg, São Paulo, Singapore, Sydney, Tokyo and Toronto
- In-depth analysis of thousands of companies across eight global sectors

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## Simple to Start

Discuss these three steps with your financial advisor or investment professional:

1. Determine which MFS investment options fit your needs.
2. Review the Participant Agreement and Disclosure Statement, which includes an Expense Overview.
3. Complete the MFS 529 Savings Plan Account Application.



For more than 90 years, MFS® has actively managed investments — around the globe, across asset classes and through a myriad of economic and market environments. While the opportunities and challenges have changed, we have kept our long-term perspective and cultivated our robust investment platform.

Founded on integrated research, fortified by collaborative thinking and supported by active risk management, our investment platform drives information flow and effective decision making. This is how we turn information into an analysis advantage, maintain our conviction and allow enough time for our insights to help create the long-term value that drives better outcomes for clients.



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MFS® 529 Savings Plan Accounts are not deposits or obligations of, or insured or guaranteed by, the State of Oregon or any agency or instrumentality thereof, the United States government, the Program Manager, any financial institution, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other federal or state governmental agency, entity or person. Investment returns are not guaranteed. Your account may lose value.

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**Before investing in the MFS® 529 Savings Plan, consider the investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses of the investment options. For a Participant Agreement and Disclosure Statement including an Expense Overview, contact your investment professional or view online at [mfs.com](https://mfs.com). Read it carefully.**

MFS does not provide legal, tax, or accounting advice. Individuals should not use or rely upon the information provided herein without first consulting with their tax or legal professional about their particular circumstances. Any statement contained in this communication (including any attachments) concerning U.S. tax matters is not intended or written to be used, and cannot be used, for the purpose of avoiding penalties under the Internal Revenue Code. This communication is written to support the promotion or marketing of the transaction(s) or matter(s) addressed.

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