



# Here we GO!

## College Savings Plan Guide

Your child's future is coming at full speed. The Florida Prepaid College Board can show you how easy it is to be ready by saving for their education now. We'll guide you every step of the way through our flexible Prepaid Plans and Florida 529 Savings Plan, offering a variety of choices and payment options to fit any budget.

 **FLORIDA  
PREPAID**  
COLLEGE SAVINGS PLANS

 *Starting is Believing*



## Making college **affordable** to all.

Everyone agrees that receiving a college education without incurring a substantial amount of student loan debt allows students to focus on building a better future for themselves and the State of Florida. But no one has put more effort into bringing this notion to life than Stanley G. Tate.

In 1987, Mr. Tate fought to put higher education within the reach of the average Florida family, and he chose the Florida Prepaid College Program as his way to accomplish that goal. He led the program as chairman of the Florida Prepaid College Board from 1987 to 2005, and then tirelessly championed the program.

In 2006, the Florida Legislature renamed the program, “The Stanley G. Tate Florida Prepaid College Program” in recognition of the outstanding dedication and service of its founding chairman. The Florida Prepaid College Plan has grown to become the largest and longest continuously running prepaid plan in the nation thanks to Mr. Tate’s exceptional vision and dedication to Florida’s future generations.

You can start making their tomorrow brighter today.

**EARNING POWER**  
▶ FOR CAREERS WITH DEGREES



Not only does a Florida Prepaid College Plan give you peace of mind about your child's education, it will make you feel great about their future.

**College graduates benefit from a higher employment rate and stronger earning potential.**

A student with a bachelor's degree can earn **\$1.6 million more in their lifetime\*** than a student with only a high school diploma. Investing in their future today will ensure a brighter tomorrow.

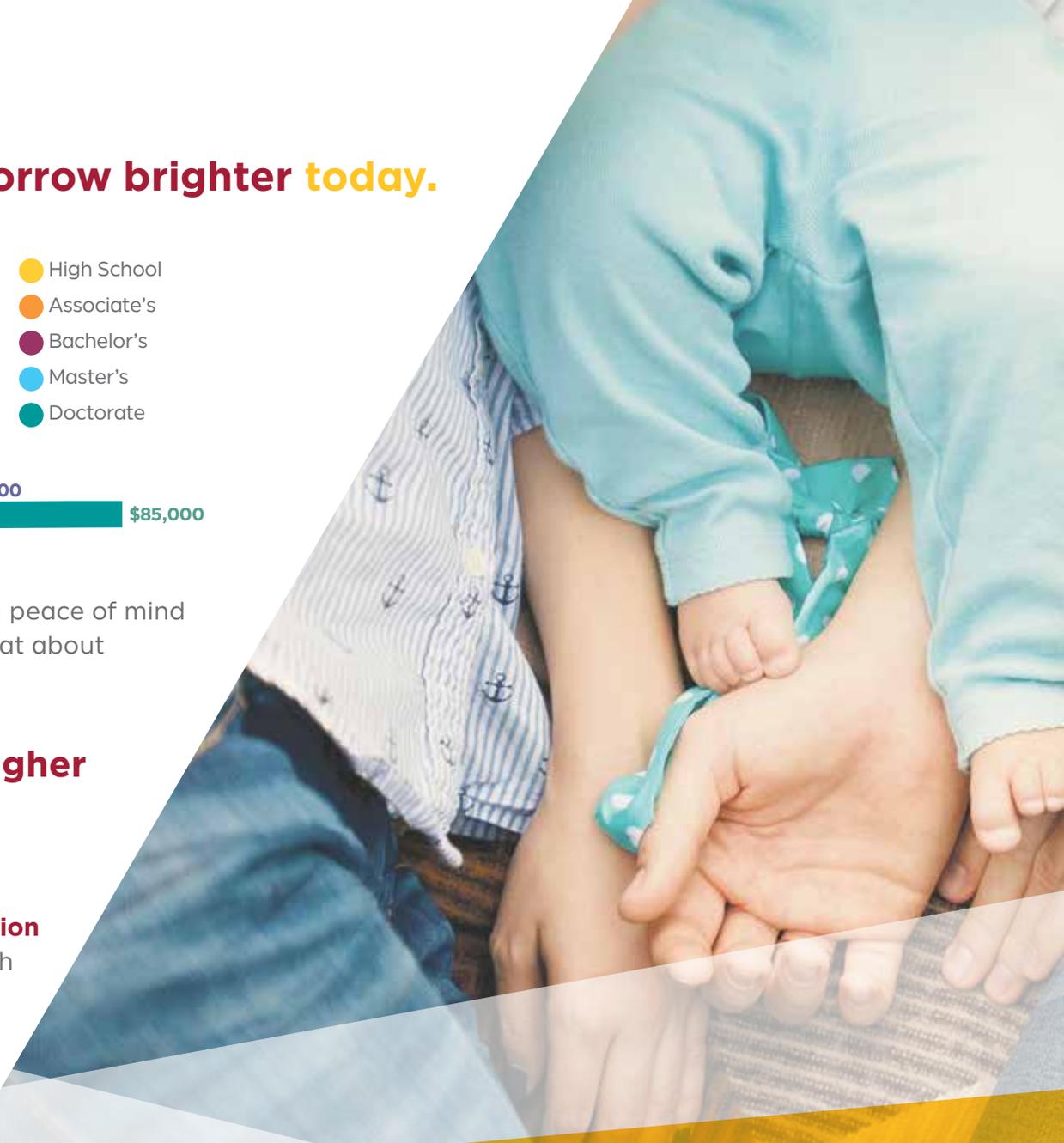
\*Carnevale, A.P., Smith, N., & Strohl, J. (2010). Help wanted: Projections of jobs and education requirements through 2018. Washington, DC: Center on Education and the Workforce.



**Knowing is Believing**

**It's projected that by 2020, 65% of jobs in Florida will require postsecondary education.**

Carnevale, A.P., Smith, N., & Strohl, J. (2013). Recovery: Job Growth and Education Requirements through 2020. Washington, DC: Center on Education and the Workforce.



# What is a Florida Prepaid College Plan?

A Florida Prepaid College Plan allows families to prepay, on a monthly or lump-sum basis, the future cost of college tuition, specified fees and dormitory housing. When your child is ready for college, the plan pays the tuition, tuition differential fee and other specified fees covered under the plan at any Florida College or State University. If your child attends an out-of-state college or private college, the plan will pay the same amount as it would pay at a public college or university in Florida. Every Prepaid Plan is guaranteed by the State of Florida.

## With **28 Florida Colleges** and **12 State Universities** in Florida, your choices are wide open!

From one end of the peninsula to the other, Florida is bursting with great educational institutions, and they accept Florida Prepaid College Plans.



### *Knowing is Believing*

**Every Prepaid Plan is fully guaranteed by the State of Florida – you can never lose your investment.**

### ➤ **Florida Colleges**

These institutions provide an affordable, accessible path to entering a chosen career. And, while they've always offered associate's degrees and trade certification programs, more and more Florida Colleges are now offering four-year bachelor's degrees as well. In addition to receiving a solid educational foundation, a student earning an associate's degree from a Florida College is guaranteed admission to a State University in Florida.

### ➤ **State Universities**

The State Universities offer a broad range of undergraduate and graduate degrees in a dynamic atmosphere. The universities also provide top-notch facilities and the traditional "college experience" that most picture in their minds.

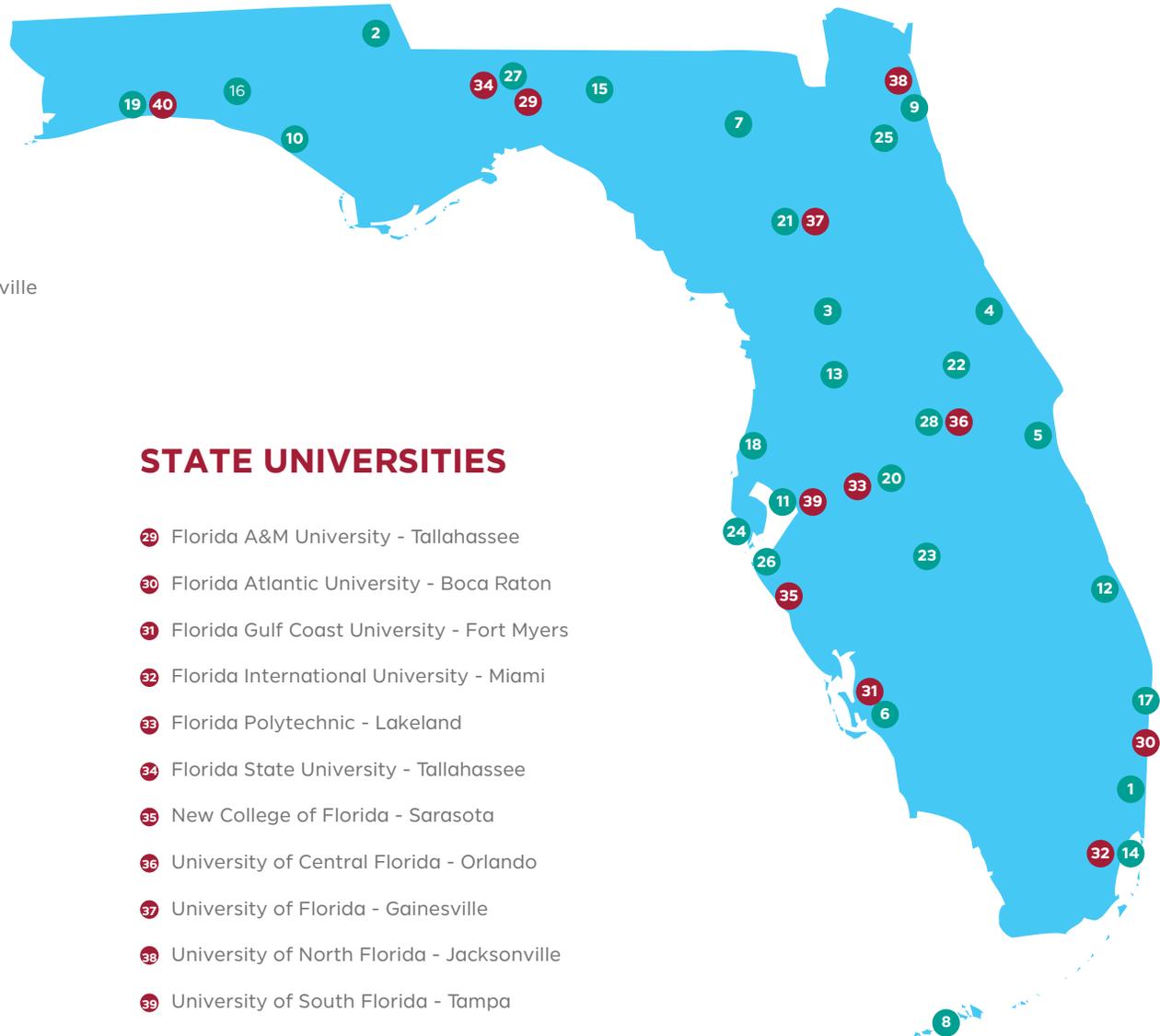


## Knowing is Believing

The majority of Floridians live within 50 miles of an institution of postsecondary learning.

### FLORIDA COLLEGES

- 1 Broward College - Fort Lauderdale
- 2 Chipola College - Marianna
- 3 College of Central Florida - Ocala
- 4 Daytona State College - Daytona Beach
- 5 Eastern Florida State College - Cocoa
- 6 Edison State College - Fort Myers
- 7 Florida Gateway College - Lake City
- 8 Florida Keys Community College - Key West
- 9 Florida State College at Jacksonville - Jacksonville
- 10 Gulf Coast State College - Panama City
- 11 Hillsborough Community College - Tampa
- 12 Indian River State College - Fort Pierce
- 13 Lake-Sumter State College - Sumterville
- 14 Miami Dade College - Miami
- 15 North Florida Community College - Madison
- 16 Northwest Florida State College - Niceville
- 17 Palm Beach State College - Lake Worth
- 18 Pasco-Hernando Community College - New Port Richey
- 19 Pensacola State College - Pensacola
- 20 Polk State College - Winter Haven
- 21 Santa Fe College - Gainesville
- 22 Seminole State College - Sanford
- 23 South Florida State College - Avon Park
- 24 St. Petersburg College - St. Petersburg
- 25 St. Johns River State College - Palatka
- 26 State College of Florida - Bradenton/Sarasota
- 27 Tallahassee Community College - Tallahassee
- 28 Valencia College - Orlando



### STATE UNIVERSITIES

- 29 Florida A&M University - Tallahassee
- 30 Florida Atlantic University - Boca Raton
- 31 Florida Gulf Coast University - Fort Myers
- 32 Florida International University - Miami
- 33 Florida Polytechnic - Lakeland
- 34 Florida State University - Tallahassee
- 35 New College of Florida - Sarasota
- 36 University of Central Florida - Orlando
- 37 University of Florida - Gainesville
- 38 University of North Florida - Jacksonville
- 39 University of South Florida - Tampa
- 40 University of West Florida - Pensacola

# Six Prepaid Plans, each with its own **unique** advantages.

From two years to a full four years at a college or university, we have plans to fit your child's dreams and your family's budget.



## 2-Year Florida College Plan

Covers tuition and other specified fees for 60 credit hours at a Florida College, offering your child the ability to earn an associate's degree or trade certification in various fields. It's an excellent springboard to a fulfilling career or further education. Plus, a student earning an associate's degree at any Florida College is **guaranteed admission to a State University**.



## 4-Year Florida College Plan

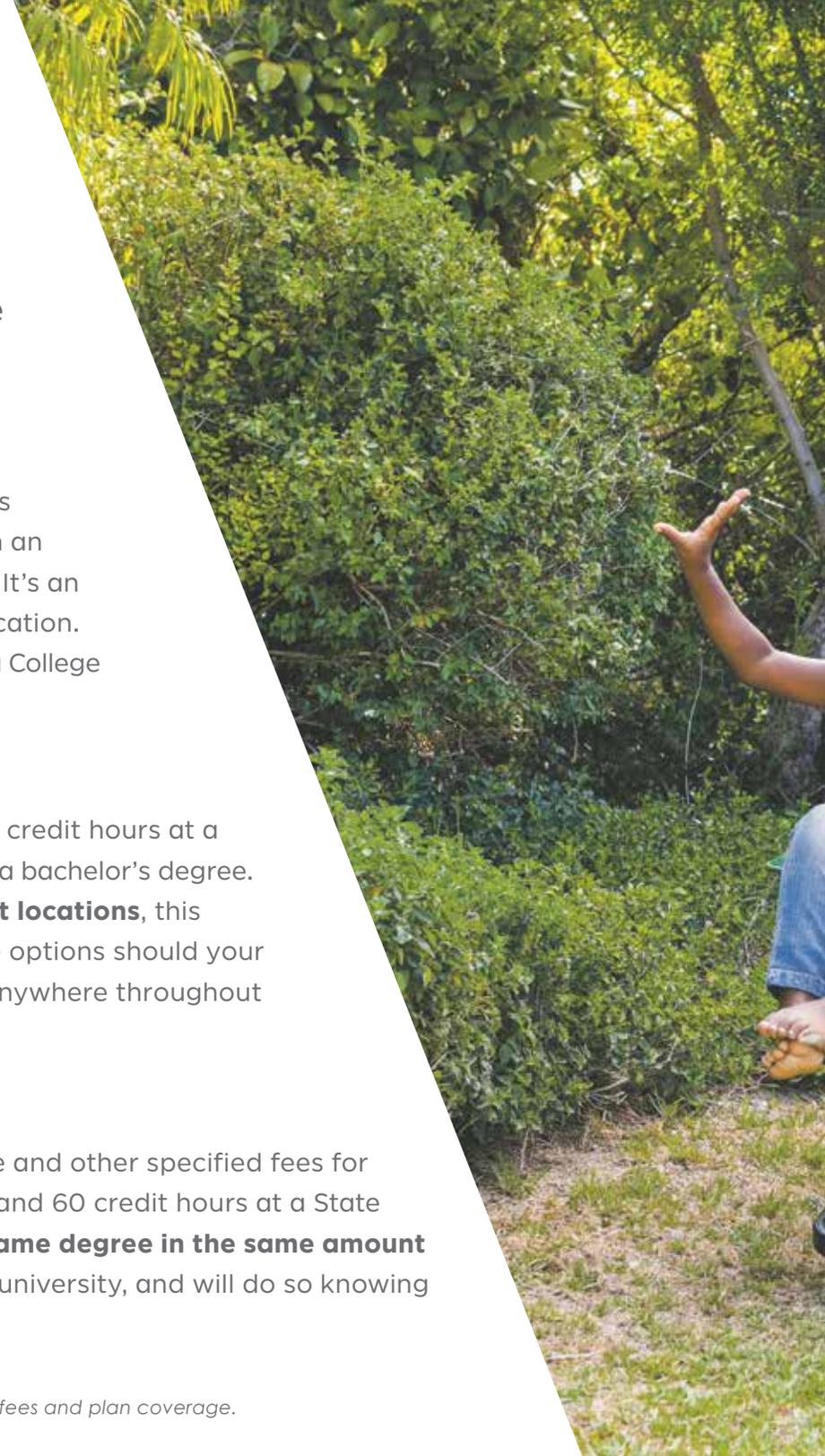
Covers tuition and other specified fees for 120 credit hours at a Florida College — the amount required to earn a bachelor's degree. With **diverse course offerings and convenient locations**, this offers tremendous flexibility and many degree options should your child wish to attend school close to home or anywhere throughout the state.



## 2 + 2 Florida Plan

Covers tuition, tuition differential fee and other specified fees for 60 credit hours at a Florida College and 60 credit hours at a State University. Your child can earn the **same degree in the same amount of time** as if they went straight to a university, and will do so knowing both of you have saved money.

*Please refer to the Master Contract for specified fees and plan coverage.*





### 1-Year Florida University Plan

Covers tuition, tuition differential fee and other specified fees at a State University for 30 credit hours — one-quarter of the 120 credit hours generally needed to obtain a bachelor’s degree. Our **most affordable Prepaid Plan** also allows friends and family to purchase a year or two as well, making saving for college a team effort.



### 4-Year Florida University Plan

Covers tuition, tuition differential fee and other specified fees at a State University for 120 credit hours — the amount generally required to earn a bachelor’s degree. The State University System blankets the state and **features two preeminent universities**, Florida State University and University of Florida.



### University Dormitory Plan

Purchasing a Florida Prepaid College Plan is a great way to cover tuition and other specified fees, but what about housing costs? That’s where an add-on plan like the University Dormitory Plan comes in. If you purchase a 2 + 2 Florida Plan, a 1-Year Florida University Plan or a 4-Year Florida University Plan, you are eligible to purchase one or more years of the University Dormitory Plan. **The plan covers the cost of a standard, double-occupancy dormitory room at any of Florida’s 12 State Universities.**



Please note, dormitory options and availability vary from school to school, and the plan does not guarantee placement in a particular hall or dormitory room.



### Knowing is Believing

**The 1-Year Florida University Plan is the first and only Florida Prepaid Plan to allow multiple purchasers for a single beneficiary, so now a whole family can team up to help save for college.**

*Please refer to the Master Contract for specified fees and plan coverage.*

# If you have questions about Florida Prepaid

Q

**Can the plans be used at schools other than Florida public institutions?**

A

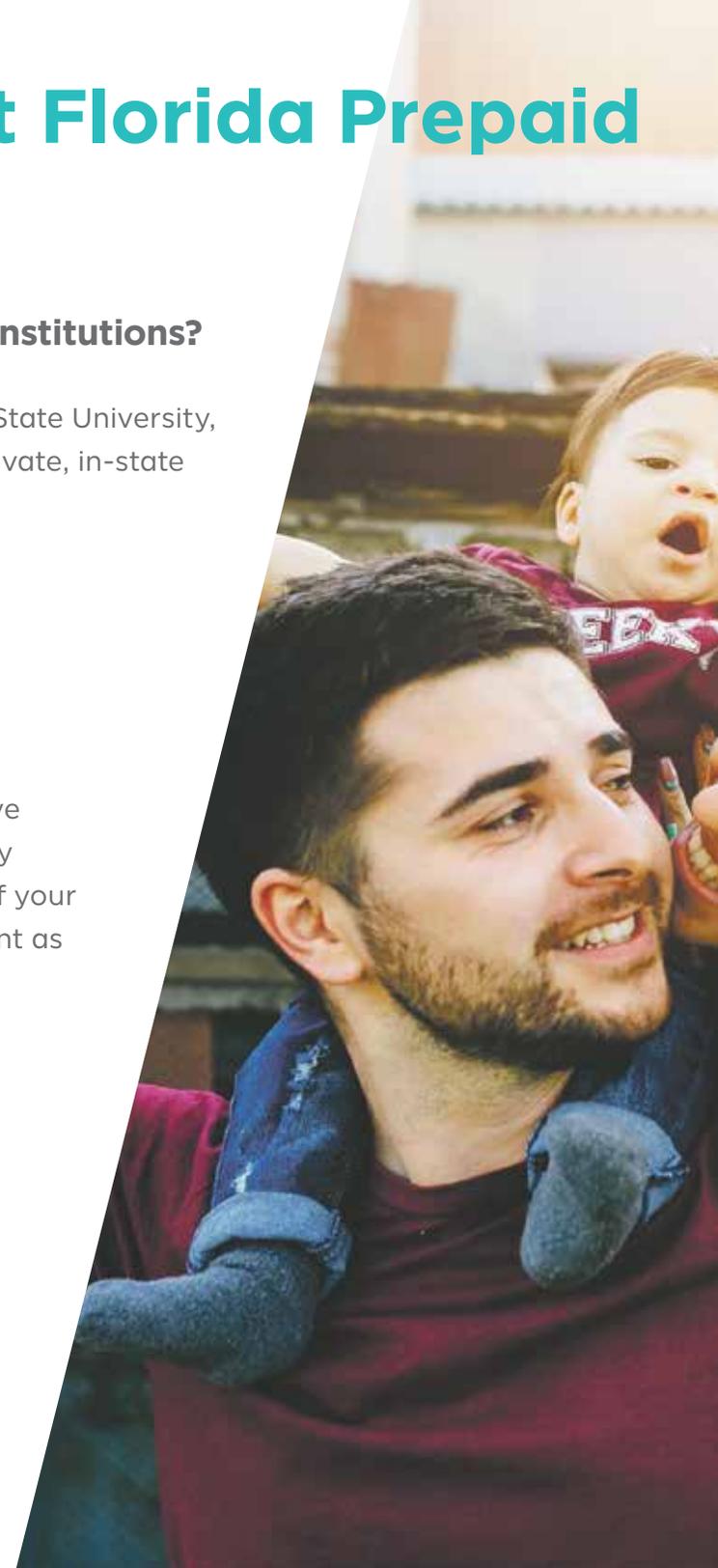
While Prepaid Plans are designed to be used at a Florida College or State University, the plans can also be applied at other schools nationwide. Public, private, in-state or out-of-state, we would pay what we'd pay a Florida school.

Q

**If my child gets a scholarship or doesn't attend college, will I lose my investment?**

A

Absolutely not. First of all, every Florida Prepaid College Plan is fully **guaranteed** by the State of Florida, so you can never lose what you've paid in. Secondly, you can transfer your plan to another eligible family member or cancel your plan for a full refund of what you've paid in. If your child receives a scholarship, you can get a refund for the same amount as the plan would pay a public college or university in Florida.



# College Plans, we have the answers.

**Q** If I move out of Florida, will I lose my plan?

**A**

Florida residency is required to get a Prepaid Plan, but it isn't required to keep one. If you or your child move out of state at some point, no problem — your plan will continue as if you never left the Sunshine State. If your child attends a Florida College or State University, they will be considered an in-state student.

**Q** How long do I have to use my Prepaid Plan?

**A**

Don't worry. You won't feel like the clock is ticking when it comes time for your child to use their plan. They have up to 10 years from the projected enrollment year selected on the application to use their Prepaid Plan.



## ***Knowing is Believing***

**Room and board, books, and supplies account for approximately half of the cost of attending a State University.**

# You're on your way, and we're right beside you every step.

**We understand saving for college can seem stressful and even overwhelming. But you can take comfort in knowing we're here for you with the tools to help you find the right plan for your family and your budget.**

- **Myfloridaprepaid.com** is THE resource for helping you in every way possible.
- Our Online Pricing Tool is a quick and easy way to instantly calculate your preferred Prepaid Plan cost.
- Visit our Testimonials page to hear from other customers.

## **Enrolling is simple. Here are a few important things to note about the application:**

- Set aside about 15 - 20 minutes of time, but don't worry — you can always save your application and come back later.
- Complete only one application, no matter how many plans you purchase or how many children you are signing up.
- Be sure you have read the Master Contract, available on our website.





## What is a **Florida 529 Savings Plan**?

The Florida 529 Savings Plan lets you save at your own pace for the future cost of college. You can save for housing, books, dormitory meal plans and many other costs of attending accredited colleges and universities nationwide. You also get to choose how you would like to invest your savings based on the investment options offered by our plan. Earnings on your Florida 529 Savings Plan are tax-free as long as they are spent on qualified higher-education expenses.

Every bit  
you save  
can help.

	5 YEARS	10 YEARS	15 YEARS	18 YEARS
\$50 <	\$3,400	\$7,764	\$13,364	\$17,460
\$100 <	\$6,801	\$15,528	\$26,729	\$34,920
\$250 <	\$17,002	\$38,821	\$66,822	\$87,301

Illustrated values based on regular monthly contributions as shown, with an assumed 5% rate of return and no fees applied.

**Consulting a financial planner or tax adviser  
is always recommended before investing.**

## What you need to know about a **Florida 529 Savings Plan.**

Saving for college may be easier than you think. And anyone can do it. So make the decision to start saving today with confidence knowing that we'll be with you every step of the way. The next few pages will go into more detail about how the Florida 529 Savings Plan can work to help you reach your college savings goals.

### **Florida 529 Savings Plan investment options.**

A total of 11 investment options are available, and you may choose one, or any combination, that best fits your budget and savings goals.



### ***Knowing is Believing***

**Children with \$1 to \$499 designated for school are 2.5 times more likely to enroll in and graduate from college than children with no account.**

Elliott, W., Song, H-a. & Nam, I. (2013). Relationships between college savings and enrollment, graduation, and student loan debt (CSD Research Brief 13-09). St. Louis, MO: Washington University, Center for Social Development.

A photograph of a woman and a baby swimming underwater. The woman is on the right, looking towards the camera, and the baby is on the left, looking towards the camera. They are both smiling and appear to be enjoying the water. The background is a clear blue water surface with light reflections.

**You've  
Got This**



# Understanding Florida 529 Savings Plan Investment Options.

## Want to keep it simple? Consider this option.

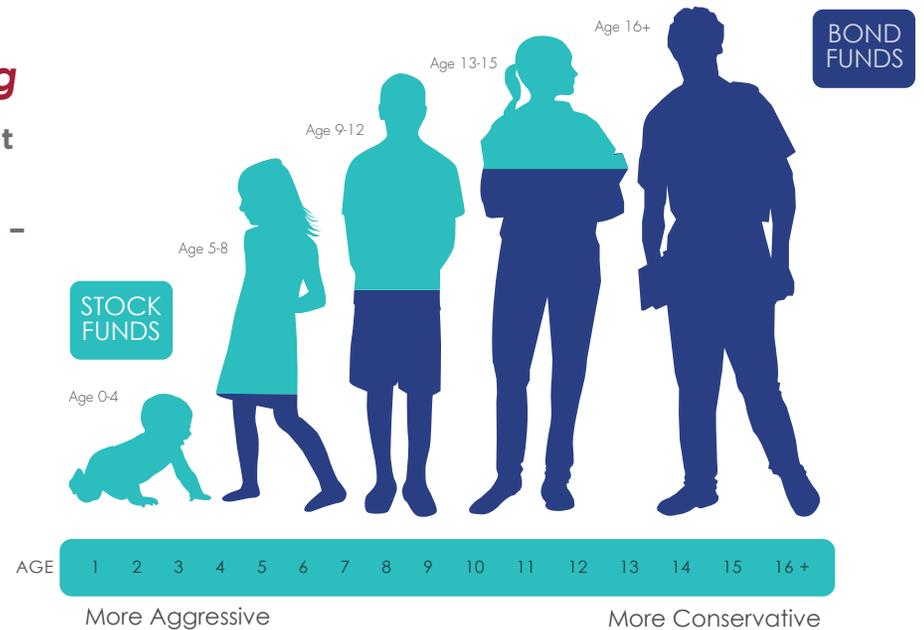
### Age Based/Years to Enrollment Portfolio

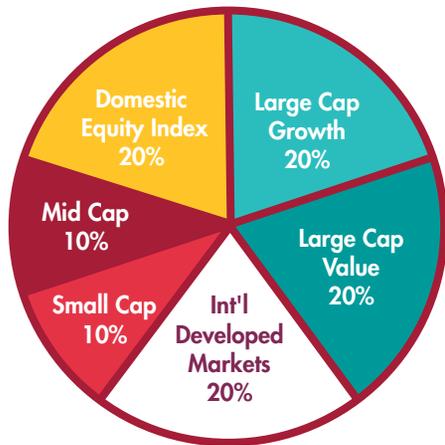
This portfolio automatically allocates your contributions to the Blended Equity Fund and/or the Fixed Income Fund based on your child's age or number of years to college enrollment. The younger the child, the higher the percentage invested in stocks. This is because stocks are expected to have higher potential returns, but can be higher in risk. As the child approaches college enrollment, the percentage invested in stocks decreases and the percentage invested in fixed income funds increases. The goal of this transition is to take on less risk as your child approaches the time when the portfolio will be drawn upon for their education.



### Knowing is Believing

You can take the hassle out of investing with our most popular investment option – the Age Based/Years to Enrollment Portfolio.



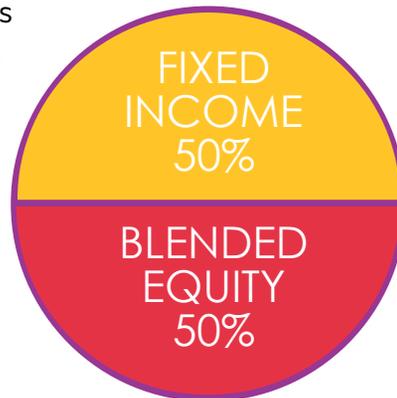


## Blended Equity Portfolio

The Blended Equity Portfolio is a blended, equity-only portfolio with allocations among the individual stock funds (see next page). By diversifying investments in various equity strategies, there is an ability to balance the higher risk/higher reward associated with certain equities against other equities that are considered less volatile by comparison.

## Balanced Portfolio

The Balanced Portfolio allocates contributions equally between the Blended Equity Portfolio and the Fixed Income Fund. The portfolio is designed for account holders who seek a broadly diversified portfolio with an asset allocation that is intended to remain static over time.



## Design Your Own

The following fund choices give you a wide range of options across the risk/return spectrum to diversify your investments and to meet your level of comfort. When choosing an investment mix, it is important to evaluate how much volatility you are able to tolerate.

### STOCKS

#### **DOMESTIC EQUITY INDEX FUND**

The Domestic Equity Index Fund is a passively managed U.S. equity portfolio constructed to match or track the S&P 500 Index.

#### **LARGE CAP GROWTH FUND**

The Large Cap Growth Fund is an actively managed equity fund investing in large capitalization growth companies, generally valued at \$10 billion or more, that present greater-than-average earnings.

#### **LARGE CAP VALUE FUND**

The Large Cap Value Fund is an actively managed equity fund investing in large capitalization companies, generally valued at \$10 billion or more, that are considered undervalued.

#### **MID CAP FUND**

The Mid Cap Fund is an actively managed equity fund investing in mid-capitalization companies, generally valued between \$1 billion and \$5 billion.

#### **SMALL CAP FUND**

The Small Cap Fund is an actively managed equity fund investing in small capitalization companies, generally valued between \$250 million and \$1 billion.

#### **INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPED MARKET FUND**

The International (Developed Market) Fund is an actively managed equity fund investing in stocks of international developed markets.



## ➤ BONDS

### FIXED INCOME FUND

The Fixed Income Fund is an actively managed bond fund including investments in U.S. Treasury and U.S. Government Agency obligations, as well as corporate debt instruments.

## ➤ MONEY MARKET

### MONEY MARKET FUND

The Money Market Fund invests exclusively in short-term, high-quality, fixed-income securities.



# Is a Florida 529 Savings Plan right for you?

Q

## When can a Florida 529 Savings Plan be opened?

A

A Florida 529 Savings Plan account can be opened at any time. Grandparents, friends or other family members can open an account or contribute to an existing one.

Q

## Do I have to be a Florida resident to start a savings plan?

A

There are no Florida residency requirements for the Florida 529 Savings Plan. Funds can be used nationwide at accredited U.S. colleges and universities to cover a range of higher education costs, including tuition, books, housing and fees.

Q

## Do I pay taxes on a Florida 529 Savings Plan?

A

Earnings on your contributions are free from federal tax when used for qualified higher-education expenses.

Q

## Are my investments guaranteed?

A

The Florida 529 Savings Plan is not insured or guaranteed. Investment returns will vary depending on the performance of the investment options you choose.

Q

## Is there a minimum initial contribution?

A

There is no minimum contribution or application fee to get started saving for college with the Florida 529 Savings Plan.





## Can I combine a Florida 529 Savings Plan with a Prepaid Plan, other plans or scholarships?



You can combine Florida 529 Savings Plan savings with scholarships and other plans, like a Florida Prepaid College Plan, for a broader approach to covering college costs.



*Knowing is Believing*

Save  
now. **vs.**  
Borrow  
later.

If I need about \$50,000 when my 8-year-old is ready to go to college, I could...



**Save**

529 College Savings Fund.  
**Save \$236/mo.\***  
Starting now through the first 4 years of college.

**\$39,650**



**Borrow**

Secure student loans at start of college.  
**Pay \$539/mo.\*\***  
Paid back over 10 years.

**\$64,700**

**Total Out of Pocket**

\*Assuming a 5% average rate of return. \*\*At the Stafford Loan rate of 4.66% on April 28, 2015. All values reflected are expressed in nominal dollars.



## How involved do I need to be with managing my investment?



As much or as little as you like. The portfolio options provide a predesigned, diversified allocation structure that is professionally managed for you. Or you can decide to set different allocations based on your goals and comfortable risk level by combining the portfolio and fund options, or choosing only a fund option.

## Investment Managers

The Florida 529 Savings Plan carefully selects professional investment managers. By doing so, we are able to offer access to investment managers who may be unavailable to individual or smaller institutional investors, which makes the Florida 529 Savings Plan unique. Each investment manager is competitively selected based on numerous factors including, but not limited to: investment philosophy and strategy; performance history; organizational experience; and financial stability.

For information on our investment managers, visit the Investment Managers tab at [myfloridaprepaid.com](http://myfloridaprepaid.com).

# With us by your side, you can start saving **today!**

**Getting started is simple.** Follow these steps to open a Florida 529 Savings Plan account today.



## **More Knowledge = Better Decision**

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission's Investor.gov website is a great resource for learning more about investing. They outline investing basics and guiding principles to help you. Information available includes the importance of a financial plan, how to understand your risk tolerance, why to diversify your investments and the importance of saving early.

**For more information visit**  
[www.investor.gov/investing-basics](http://www.investor.gov/investing-basics).



## **Knowing is Believing**

The Florida 529 Savings Plan and a Florida Prepaid College Plan can be used together to cover all your child's college expenses.

## College Savings Simplified

Here are a few questions that will help you learn more about our Florida Prepaid College Plans and our Florida 529 Savings Plan. Remember, both types of plans can be used together to cover the costs of college.

QUESTIONS	Florida Prepaid College Plan	Florida 529 Savings Plan
	Prepay the future cost of tuition and specified fees.	Save at your own pace for college, and choose your investment options.
<b>Eligibility</b>		
When can I enroll?	Anytime.	Anytime.
At what age/grade can I enroll the child?	Newborn through 11th grade.	Any age or grade.
Do I have to be a Florida resident?	The child or his/her parent or legal guardian must have been a Florida resident for the past 12 months.	No.
<b>Coverage</b>		
What does the plan cover?	Tuition and other specified fees at a Florida College or State University. This amount can also be applied to other schools nationwide.	Any qualified educational expenses, including tuition, local fees, health fees, athletic fees, lab fees, books, housing, transportation and special needs.
Can the plan be used for room and board?	No, but a University Dormitory Plan may also be purchased.	Funds may be used for room and board if they are qualified higher-education expenses.
<b>Flexibility</b>		
Where can I use the plan benefits?	Plans are designed to be used at a Florida College or State University, but the amount covered by the plan can also be applied to tuition and fees at other schools nationwide or at private colleges and universities in Florida.	Nationwide.
What if the child receives a scholarship (e.g., Bright Futures)?	If your child receives a scholarship, you can get a refund for the same amount as the plan would pay a public college or university in Florida.	Savings can be used to make up any difference in qualified higher-education expenses not covered by the scholarship.
What happens if the child moves out of Florida?	Nothing – the child remains eligible for in-state tuition and fees at a Florida College or State University.	Can be used nationwide.
How long do I have to use the plan?	Ten years from the child's projected college enrollment year selected on the application.	There is no set time period for using the plan.
<b>Financial Considerations</b>		
What are the federal tax benefits?	Earnings are tax-free when used for qualified higher-education expenses.	Earnings are tax-free when used for qualified higher-education expenses.
What are my contribution/payment options?	There are three payment options: monthly, five-year or lump sum.	There is no minimum contribution to get started; you can contribute as much and as often as you like.
Can I lose money in the plan?	No. Plans are guaranteed by the State of Florida.	Yes. The degree of risk varies based on the investment options selected.
What if the child never goes to college?	Payments you've made into the plan can be refunded, or the plan can be transferred to another eligible child/student.	You can transfer the plan to another eligible child/student or close the plan and withdraw the remaining balance, but any withdrawal not applied to qualified educational expenses may be subject to an IRS penalty, and gains, if any, may be subject to federal income tax.

Let us help you get started at  
[myfloridaprepaid.com](http://myfloridaprepaid.com),  
or by calling **1.800.552.GRAD (4723)**.



If you have the will,   
we have a way.



▶ *Starting is Believing*

**[myfloridaprepaid.com](http://myfloridaprepaid.com) | 1.800.552.GRAD (4723)**

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