

# What Are The Best 529 Plans? Part II

Read Part 1 of our report: [What Are the Best 529 Plans? Part I](#)

Just to reiterate, there is *a lot* to consider when evaluating 529 plans. At Emerald College Funding Solutions, we're not huge advocates, as these plans don't necessarily fit with our philosophy of safety and certainty. (Aside from the volatility that goes along with the uncertainty of our financial markets, there are a host of other reasons to be cautious with 529s, such as changing fees and changing tax laws.)

If you are going to go with a 529 plan, here's a helpful rundown of additional top-performing 529s to get you started (Remember: past performance is by no means any indication of future results — and please make sure to consult with your CPA or tax advisor when determining the deductibility of 529 plan contributions).

## **#6: Alaska's University of Alaska College Savings Plan**

A low-fee plan that offers special benefits for use at the University of Alaska, but can be used by any U.S. resident, for any school.

## **#7: Minnesota's College Savings Plan**

A 10%-15% matching grant for Minnesota residents; all other residents can invest, but will not get the matching funds.

## **#8: North Carolina's National College Savings Program**

All can apply, but North Carolina residents get tax deductions up to \$2,500 for a single filer, and \$5,000 per couple.

## **#9: Oklahoma's College Savings Plan**

Open to all; Oklahoma residents receive up to \$10,000 in tax deductions per year for a single filer, and \$20,000 per annum for joint filing. In addition, certain beneficiary's born in or after 2007 will be selected as part of a study, and receive matching grants up to 1-for-1.

## **#10: Alaska's T. Rowe Price College Savings Plan**

Open to all, with low fees – some of which are waived for large accounts or automatic deposits.

## **#11: New York's 529 College Savings Program**

Run by Vanguard; tax deductions for residents up to \$5,000/\$10,000.

## **#12: Nebraska's College Savings Plan**

A direct-sold option, no need to pay broker's fees.

## **#13: Vermont's Higher Education Investment Plan**

Open to all; 10% tax credit on contributions up to \$2,500.

## **#14: West Virginia's SMART529 WV Direct**

Only open to West Virginians; very low fees.

## **#15: Wisconsin's EdVest**

Tax deductible up to \$3,000 per year for Wisconsin residents; agreements with over 200 SAGE schools for tuition discounts using the EdVest 529.

**#16: Mississippi's Affordable College Savings (MACS) Program**

Tax deductible for residents, up to \$10,000/\$20,000.

**#17: Utah's Educational Savings Plan (UESP) Trust**

No minimum contributions; tax credits available for residents.

**#18: Kansas' Schwab 529 College Savings Plan**

Low fees; tax deductible for residents, up to \$3,000/\$6,000.

**#19: Maryland's College Investment Plan**

Up to \$2,500 deductible for residents, with a 10-year carry forward for excess contributions.

**#20: Nebraska's TD Ameritrade 529 College Savings Plan**

Tax deductible for residents, up to \$5,000 (or \$2,500 for married couples filing separately).

For more information on these and other 529s, explore the informative 529 site that helped us with our research, [Saving For College](#).