



STARTing Line

2nd Quarter 2015

Volume 8-1

LOSFA to Hold START Saving program ‘Lunch and Learn’ Facebook Chat on 529 Day

The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) will observe national ‘5-29 Day’ with its third annual “5-29 Day Facebook Chat” on Friday, May 29 (5-29). With May 29th falling on a Friday this year, the annual chat will be held as a “Lunch and Learn” event from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Save on Federal and State Tax Exemptions

The “5-29” in “5-29 Day” refers to Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code which authorizes states to offer college saving plans that include substantial federal and state tax exemptions and other beneficial incentives to save. Louisiana’s 529 plan is called the Student Tuition Assistance and Revenue Trust (START) Saving Program.

To participate and/or monitor the chat event, users must “like” the new “START SAVING 529 Program” Facebook page. After doing so, questions may be submitted on that page. LOSFA staff will be online to answer all questions as they are posted.

NOTE: The chat will NOT be viewable on the “LOSFA” Facebook page where it has been held in previous years.

START Getting Paid to SAVE

The START Saving Program is an innovative college savings program that qualifies as a “529 Plan” under the Internal Revenue Code. START offers federal and state tax incentives to anyone who wishes to financially assist a student in acquiring a college education.

In addition to regular earnings on investments, accounts will receive a contribution from the state, called “Earnings Enhancements,” to match a percentage of their annual deposits, ranging from 14 percent to two percent determined by the account owner’s prior year federal adjusted gross income as reported to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

Earl E. Start at Woman’s Hospital Baby Grand Event

On Saturday, May 2, 2015, Woman’s Hospital held its annual Spring Baby Grand event. This event is geared toward mothers-to-be and helping them ease into the transition to motherhood. LOSFA representatives were on hand to provide information about the START Saving Program.



continued on page 2

LATTA Publishes START Saving Plan Interest Rates for 2014 Deposits

The Louisiana Tuition Trust Authority (LATTA) amended its program rules at the March 24 meeting to publish certain START Saving program interest rates for deposits made during 2014 as determined by the State Treasurer.

The LATTA published an interest rate of 2.08% for START deposits made to the Louisiana Principal Protection Fund Option and an interest rate of 1.31% on accrued Earnings Enhancements for qualifying START investment options.

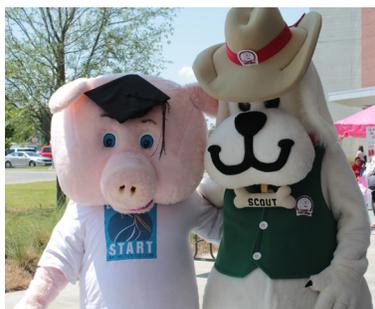
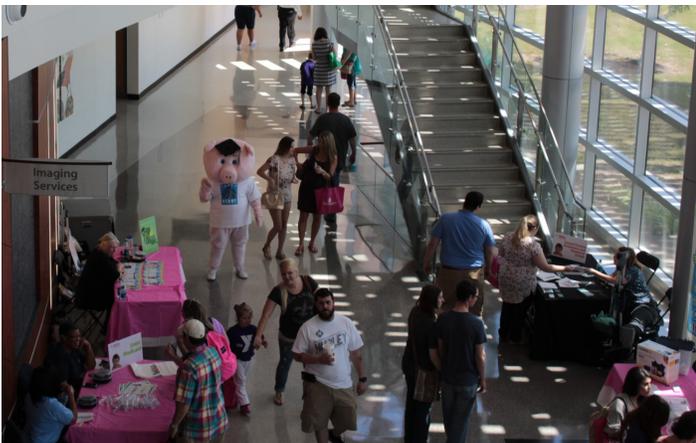
Deposits made to the Louisiana Principal Protection Fund Option are managed by the State Treasurer's Office and are invested in fixed earnings. The redemption value is guaranteed by the state and no administrative fees or investment management fees are charged for Louisiana Principal Protection Fund deposits.

Earnings Enhancements represent the state matching funds of 2% to 14% paid annually based on prior year adjusted gross income and Account Owner Category.

The balance, as of December 31, 2014, of all Earnings Enhancements accrued since the account was opened earned the additional 1.31% interest rate. Earnings Enhancements are paid annually on deposits made only in the current year.

START also offers a number of variable earnings investment plan options that are invested in mutual funds managed by The Vanguard Group. The START Saving program is charged an investment management fee on monies invested in these options. It is possible that monies invested in variable earnings will lose value and investment returns are not guaranteed.

Earl E. Start at Woman's Hospital Baby Grand Event *(continued)*



LOSFA's Social Media Sites



www.facebook.com/startsaving529programla



<https://twitter.com/STARTSaving529>



<http://www.youtube.com/LOSFA1000>



<http://instagram.com/LOSFA001>



<http://www.startsving.la.gov>



For more information, contact the
START Saving Program:

By Phone: 800-259-5626

By E-mail: start@startsaving.la.gov

By Mail: P.O. Box 91271, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9271

Web Address: www.startsaving.la.gov

For submissions, opinions or comments for STARTing Line,
please contact Gus Wales at Gus.Wales@la.gov.