



# STARTing LINE

2nd Quarter 2009

Volume 2-2

## START deposits top \$200 million mark

The Student Tuition Assistance and Revenue Trust (START) Saving Program, Louisiana's "529" college savings plan, has passed \$200 million in deposits. As of June 2, 2009, total deposits in the state's 529 College Saving plan stood at \$200,780,167.33, representing 33,730 active accounts. The program's total assets stand at \$208.8 million.

"Reaching this milestone clearly demonstrates that START's value-added benefits have proved a winning combination for Louisiana families who choose to invest in their children's education," said Melanie Amrhein, Executive Director of the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA-the state agency that administers START). "It is our goal that every Louisiana family with the desire to send their children or grandchildren to college would consider the benefits of START over other savings options," she added. "No fees are charged by the state to participate and the benefits are unmatched by other programs."

### Current Vanguard Fees

- ▶ Vanguard Life Strategy funds (Moderate Growth Portfolio, Conservative Growth Portfolio and Income Portfolio)- 22 basis points
- ▶ Total Stock Market Index Fund Institutional Shares - 6 basis points
- ▶ Total International Stock Index Fund - 34 basis points

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**START SAVING PROGRAM**  
**Average Annual Returns**  
**Updated Quarterly as of 3/31/09**

	Vanguard Total Stock Market Index Institutional Shares Since Inception 7-7-97	Vanguard LifeStrategy Moderate Growth Portfolio Since Inception 9-30-94	Vanguard LifeStrategy Conservative Growth Portfolio Since Inception 9-30-94	Vanguard LifeStrategy Income Portfolio Since Inception 9-30-94	Vanguard Total International Stock Index Fund Since Inception 4-29-96
1 Year	-37.81%	-27.55%	-20.25%	-11.21%	-46.60%
3 Year	-13.26%	-7.17%	-3.96%	-0.14%	-13.37%
5 Year	-4.35%	-1.19%	-0.02%	1.47%	-1.02%
10 Year	-2.02%	1.04%	2.18%	3.47%	0.16%
Since Inception	1.07%	5.92%	6.02%	6.29%	1.39%
Annual Total Return 2008	-36.94%	-26.50%	-19.52%	-10.53%	-44.10%

  

Louisiana Principal Protection Option & Earnings Enhancement Fund Updated Annually As of 12/31/08		
	Louisiana Principal Protection Since Inception 1997	Earnings Enhancement Fund* Since Inception 1997
1 Year	4.65%	4.39%
3 Year	5.01%	4.77%
5 Year	4.68%	4.86%
10 Year	5.33%	5.47%
Since Inception	5.46%	5.57%
Annual Total Return 2008	4.65%	4.39%

\*All Earnings Enhancements are invested in Louisiana Principal Protection and not at the option of the account owner.

NOTE: Performance data shown represents past performance, which is not a guarantee of future results. Investment returns and principal value will fluctuate. Deposits to an investment option that include a Vanguard fund, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost.

## Not using automatic payroll deduction?

### It's quick and easy. Here's how to enroll!

One of the easiest methods of making deposits to your START Saving account is by automatic payroll deductions and we make it simple. If your employer already participates in the program (call our office to find out), you only need to visit our Web site at [www.startsaving.la.gov](http://www.startsaving.la.gov), log into your account and select "Forms." The Payroll Deduction form may be completed in two ways: 1) choose the online option, complete the required fields, print the form and submit it to your Human Resources Department or 2.) choose the download option, complete and print the form, mail or fax the form to the START office and we will authorize and submit it to your Human Resources Department on your behalf.

If your employer is not a participant in the program, you may contact your Human Resources Department and inquire as to whether or not they would like to participate. Someone representing your employer may simply call START at 1-800-259-5626, extension 3281. If you wish, you can also complete a Payroll Deduction Authorization form, mail or fax it to us, and we will contact your employer to ask that they participate in the program. Our mailing address is: P.O. Box 91271, Baton Rouge, LA. 70821-9271 and our fax number is: 225-922-1488

# TIPS FOR SPEEDY DISBURSEMENT OF START FUNDS

With the end of the school year, many graduating seniors will be utilizing their START Saving Program Account to enroll in a postsecondary institution.

In order to access the funds, the account owner must complete a disbursement form which is available on our Web site at [www.startsaving.la.gov](http://www.startsaving.la.gov). The form may be submitted electronically online or downloaded and mailed or faxed to the START offices. Should you not have access to the internet, you may call the START office, and we will be happy to mail the form to you.

The following are a few reminders that must be included on the form.

- ▶ Prior to completing the disbursement form, please confirm with the START office at 225-922-1036 whether or not the school is an eligible institution.
- ▶ All sections of the form must be completed and the form signed by the account owner.
- ▶ Since disbursements are made on a semester basis, please indicate the semester you are requesting, for example, Fall 2009, Spring 2010.
- ▶ If funds are being sent directly to the school and the student has a school ID number, the owner should note it on the disbursement form.
- ▶ Upon receipt of a completed form, a check will be mailed to the owner, beneficiary or to the school within 30 days. To eliminate delays, please insure all information is complete and correct.

## New START forms now on Web site

In response to account owner needs, the START Saving program has added two new forms to its official Web site. Now available:

**START TO START FUNDS TRANSFER FORM** - This form is for START Account Owners who need to transfer funds from START Account to START Account. An example of this:

My daughter just finished college and has \$200 remaining in her START account. My son is in high school and I wanted to transfer the \$200 to his START Account.

The Account Owner would complete this form. Once the request is completed, the first account is closed. This is only to be used from START Account to START Account. If they need to rollover or transfer funds from another 529 plan, they must use the Rollover/Transfer Form.

**SUBSTITUTE SUCCESSOR FORM** - This form is used only to change the current Successor Account Owner on the account.

## NEED HELP TRANSFERRING FUNDS FROM ANOTHER 529 PLAN?

Do you have a 529 plan with another state, a Coverdell Education Savings Account, or have eligible U. S. Savings Bonds that you wish to deposit into a START Saving Program Account? Please visit our Web site at [www.startsaving.la.gov](http://www.startsaving.la.gov), click on forms and download the Rollover or Transfer Deposit form. This completed form must be received by the START Saving Program with an original signature and cannot be faxed. Upon receipt of the form, we will contact your existing plan and ask that they forward the funds directly to your START account.

These funds may be deposited into your START account and may have no tax consequences. Prior to sending the forms to START from another 529 plan, it is advised that you contact your existing plan and ask if they have any special requirements. Many will require that the account owner have his/her signature guaranteed by a financial institution. This will avoid delays in transferring the funds. Also, on the rollover form, please indicate if you wish the balance transferred or just a portion/dollar amount.

Eligible U. S. Savings Bonds must be cashed at a commercial bank and the proceeds forwarded to your START account. The deposit must include the original purchase price of the bonds and the earnings received.

UTMA or UGMA account owners may use the Rollover or Transfer Deposit form also. START will also contact the existing financial institution and ask that the funds be transferred to START. However, this type of transfer is not an eligible rollover without tax consequences.

Remember—you should also contact your consultant/advisor on tax issues.



For more information, contact the  
START Saving Program:

By Phone: 800-259-5626, Ext. 1012

By E-mail: [start@startsaving.la.gov](mailto:start@startsaving.la.gov)

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

Web Address: [startsaving.la.gov](http://startsaving.la.gov)

For submissions, opinions or comments for STARTing Line, please  
contact David Roberts at [droberts@osfa.la.gov](mailto:droberts@osfa.la.gov).