



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA STATE TREASURER BILL LOCKYER

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State Treasurer Lockyer Announces Launch of Enhanced Online Enrollment for ScholarShare College Savings Plan *Feature Lets Parents Easily Begin Saving for Children's College Education*

SACRAMENTO – State Treasurer Bill Lockyer announced the state's ScholarShare college savings program today launched an enhanced online registration feature.

“The ScholarShare program is an excellent way for parents and families to save for their children's college education,” said Lockyer. “The online feature makes it fast and simple for investors to enroll and begin saving. With a click of the mouse and as little as \$15 a month, you can take a step toward easing the burden of paying for college tuition. I encourage all California parents to take advantage of this sound investment tool.”

ScholarShare enables Californians to save for college by putting money in tax-advantaged investments. After-tax contributions allow earnings to grow tax-deferred, and funds can be used at virtually any accredited college nationwide for tuition and many qualified expenses.

The online system will reflect new and current investment options. The enrollment process takes roughly 15 minutes, and work can be saved and finished at a later time. Upon successful completion, an account number will be assigned, and investors can then manage and monitor their account via the Internet.

Accounts may be opened with as little as \$50, or \$15 per month with automatic investments. ScholarShare has no annual fee, no income limit and offers a high maximum contribution limit of \$300,000. The program currently holds more than \$2.3 billion in assets in more than 174,000 accounts.

Lockyer is chair of the ScholarShare Investment Board, which sets investment policies and oversees all activities of ScholarShare, the state's 529 college savings plan. Go to www.scholarshare.com for more information.

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