



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 11, 2016

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## **IDEal, Idaho's 529 College Savings Program, Is Making It Easier to Save for College**

*Students can now use IDEal fund to purchase computers; beginning in April, IDEal will implement lower fees as part of a wide-ranging program relaunch*

IDEal, Idaho's 529 College Saving Program, announced today that they are making big changes to the program. IDEal will "reboot" the program to keep up with the way technology and Idaho's families have changed in the fourteen years since IDEal launched. The program reboot includes lowered fees for account owners. Starting April 15<sup>th</sup>, total annual asset-based fees for the plan will be reduced from 0.69% to 0.51% (\$5.10 per \$1,000 invested). The Savings Portfolio will remain at 0.34%. IDEal has no commissions, loads, or sales charges.

Christine Stoll, IDEal Executive Director, noted "Thanks to the many Idahoans who have invested in IDEal 529 College Savings plans, the Plan was able to reduce fees and implement new tools for families. We're excited about the potential this has to support greater college access for Idahoans and help our state reach its 60% go-on goal."

The announcement comes on the heels of a bill passed in December by Congress, allowing 529 plan holders to use plan funds to pay for computers (including tablets), peripheral equipment, and related services for the beneficiary while enrolled at an eligible educational institution.<sup>1</sup>

### **The following is a list of other recent and upcoming elements of the plan reboot:**

- IDEal is making it possible for organizations to offer matching grant contributions through the plan.

(—more—)



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- Current and potential account owners can now have their calls serviced in Spanish when they call the IDeal customer service line.
- Beginning May 16<sup>th</sup>, IDeal's three Age-Based investment options will be expanded to include additional steps as the beneficiary approaches college age. The changes will provide a more gradual approach to reducing the equity exposure in accounts as investment allocations become more conservative.
- IDeal's website has been updated to include the addition of a calculator aimed at helping families estimate how much they should save, a calendar featuring locations and dates of scheduled presentations, information for employers and Advisors, and a mobile-compatible interface.

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1 An eligible school is one that is eligible to participate in federal financial aid programs.

*For more information about the Idaho College Savings Program ("IDeal"), call 866-433-2533 or visit [idsaves.org](http://idsaves.org) to obtain a Disclosure Statement. The Disclosure Statement discusses investment objectives, risks, charges, expenses, and other important information. Because investing in IDeal is an important decision for you and your family, you should read and consider the Disclosure Statement carefully before investing. Ascensus Broker Dealer Services, Inc. ("ABD") is Distributor of IDeal.*

*If you are not an Idaho taxpayer, consider before investing whether your or the beneficiary's home state offers any state tax or other benefits that are only available for investments in such state's qualified tuition program.*

**IDeal is administered by the Idaho College Savings Program Board (Board). ABD, the program manager, and its affiliates, have overall responsibility for the day-to-day operations, including investment advisory and recordkeeping and administrative services.** The Vanguard Group, Inc. (Vanguard) serves as Investment Manager for IDeal. Sallie Mae Bank serves as the Savings Portfolio Manager for IDeal. IDeal's Portfolios invest in either: (i) mutual funds offered or managed by Vanguard; or (ii) an FDIC-insured omnibus savings account held in trust by the Board at Sallie Mae Bank. Except for the



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Savings Portfolio, investments in IDEal are not insured by the FDIC. Units of the Portfolios are municipal securities and the value of units will vary with market conditions.

Investment returns will vary depending upon the performance of the Portfolios you choose. Except to the extent of FDIC insurance available for the Savings Portfolio, you could lose all or a portion of your money by investing in IDEal, depending on market conditions. Account Owners assume all investment risks as well as responsibility for any federal and state tax consequences.

Ugift is a registered service mark of ABD.

**Not FDIC-Insured (except for the Savings Portfolio)**

**No Bank, State or Federal Guarantee.**

**May Lose Value.**

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