



**Aurora
Financial
Empowerment
Center**

*Free One-on-One
Financial Counseling*

City of Aurora Financial Empowerment Center

44 E. Downer Pl. | Aurora, IL 60506

Phone: (630) 256-4552 | www.cityofaurorafec.org

Aurora Promise Children's Savings Account Transition Update

Dear School District 131 Administration:

The City of Aurora is moving forward with the closeout of the Aurora Promise Children's Savings Account pilot program, and I wanted to provide an update on the transition plan for participating families and ask for your support as we begin communicating next steps.

Funds designated for participating children through the Aurora Promise pilot will be transitioned into parent-owned Bright Start 529 College Savings accounts through the Illinois State Treasurer's Office.

What Families Will Need to Do

To receive their child's designated Aurora Promise funds, participating families will need to:

1. **Open a Bright Start 529 College Savings account** for their child. Families who already have a Bright Start account for their participating child will not need to open another account.
2. **Securely submit their Bright Start 529 College Savings account information to the City of Aurora.**
3. Once the information is received and reviewed, the City will facilitate the transfer of the child's designated Aurora Promise funds into the parent-owned Bright Start 529 account.

Families will be asked to complete the first two steps by **December 30, 2026**.

The City will provide each family with a letter from Mayor John Laesch, an Aurora Promise to Bright Start 529 Transition Guide, and a brochure from Bright Start 529 College Savings Plan explaining the program and next steps.

Support for Families

To help parents understand Bright Start 529 and open their accounts, the City is partnering with Bright Start Education Consultants to offer four 45-minute virtual information sessions:

Thursday, November 5, 2026 – 12:00 p.m. English, 1:00 p.m. Spanish

Thursday, November 12, 2026 – 6:00 p.m. English, 7:00 p.m. Spanish

Families who are unable to attend a session will also have the option to schedule a one-on-one appointment with a Bright Start Education Consultant.



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We've also created a dedicated [Aurora Promise Transition webpage](#) where families can find information about the transition, important deadlines, and resources to help them complete the process. We encourage families to visit the website for updates and answers to common questions.

How the District Can Help

As trusted partners and an important connection to these families, your support will be especially helpful in making sure parents receive the information and take action before the December 30th deadline.

We would appreciate the District's help with:

- Sharing the City's Aurora Promise transition communications and webinar information with participating families.
- Encouraging parents to attend one of the Bright Start information sessions or schedule individual assistance if needed.
- Reinforcing the December 30th deadline to open a Bright Start account and securely provide the required account information to the City.
- Inviting City staff to upcoming school or district events where Aurora Promise families may be present. We would be happy to host an information table, answer questions, and assist parents with getting started with the Bright Start account-opening process.
- Helping us identify other opportunities to connect directly with participating families before the December 30th deadline.
- Directing families to www.cityofaurorafec.org/Services/CSA-Bright-Start for transition information, deadlines, and available resources. Families with additional questions about the Aurora Promise transition can contact the City, while questions about opening or managing a Bright Start account can be directed to the Bright Start Education Consultants.

The City will manage the collection of Bright Start 529 savings account information and coordinate the transfer of funds. **Parents should not provide Bright Start account numbers or other account information to the school or district.**

We appreciate your continued partnership and your help communicating this transition to Aurora Promise families. Our goal is to make the process clear and accessible and give families plenty of time and support to complete the required steps.

Sincerely,

Toshia Moss, Manager
Aurora Financial Empowerment Center
City of Aurora