



### SPECIAL MEETING - FAMILY SINGLE STUDENT PLAN CUSTOMER FAQ

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### Introduction

Education savings is our passion, and at Embark Student Corp., it's all we do. As the education landscape continues to evolve, we continue to make improvements to our education savings plans so that they offer more flexibility, savings potential, insights, and advice for you.

Today, we are asking customers of the Family Single Student Plan to vote in favour of change. As RESP experts in education saving and planning, we've taken everything that's great about the Family Single Student Plan and made it even better. Please take a moment to read *Your Vote is Important*, a one-pager that summarizes the features and benefits of the Embark Student Plan, the 'next generation' of education saving and planning.

## Special Meeting & Vote Materials

#### What is the purpose of this Subscriber Vote?

The Board of Directors of the Embark Student Foundation are holding a vote to wind-up and transfer all Family Single Student plans to the Embark Student Plan.

### When are the Special Meetings?

The Special Meetings of Family Single Student Plan customers will be held on **December 12, 2023** at 2PM EST and can be attended virtually or in-person at Embark's head office, located at 50 Burnhamthorpe Road West, Suite 1000, Mississauga, Ontario.

# I am not available on December 12 for the Special Meeting. Can I still vote?

You can vote in advance of the Special Meeting online, by phone or by mail. We strongly encourage you to vote in advance of the Special Meeting, using the Proxy Form included in the mailing you received. Details about the Special Meetings and the different ways you can vote are also available on our website at www.embark.ca/fsspvote.



# Will the Special Meeting be held in French?

The Special Meeting will be conducted in English, but all vote material is available in French at <a href="https://www.embark.ca/fr/votefp1se">https://www.embark.ca/fr/votefp1se</a> to help you make an informed vote decision.

#### What materials do I need to vote?

You will need the Proxy Form included in your mailing package. Prior to voting, we encourage you to read the *Your Vote is Important* one-pager, also included in the package, that explains and summarizes the features and benefits of the Embark Student Plan.

The full Management Information Circular can also be found on the Family Single Student Plan vote page at <a href="https://www.embark.ca/fsspvote">www.embark.ca/fsspvote</a>.

#### Why did I receive two mailing packages?

Customers who have a Flex First Plan and a Family Single Student Plan will receive two mailing packages – one to vote for changes to the Flex First Plan and the other for changes to the Family Single Student Plan.

# I have a Flex First Plan and a Family Single Student Plan. Do I have to attend both meetings?

In this case, the most convenient way to cast your votes is by doing so in advance. You can vote online, by phone or by mail. Instructions for each method are in the Letter to Customers and Proxy Form included in your mailing packages. You will cast one vote for your Flex First Plan and one vote for your Family Single Student Plan.

For your proxy vote to count, your vote must be case online or by phone, or received by Mail at Computershare Proxy Department, 1354 West Beaver Creek, PO Box 300, Richmond Hill, Ontario, L4B 4R5 as follows:

- Flex First Plan: By 11AM EST on Friday, December 8, 2023.
- Family Single Student Plan: By 2PM EST on Friday, December 8, 2023.

If you choose to attend the Special Meeting virtually or in-person, you will have to attend both meetings. For the Flex First Plan, the meeting is at 11AM EST on December 12, 2023; for the Family Single Student Plan the meeting is at 2PM EST on December 12, 2023.



# What can I do if I misplaced the Vote Package (or Proxy Form) that was mailed to me?

Any customer who did not receive a mailing package or who has lost their proxy should call Computershare at 1-800-564-6253 to obtain their unique Control Number. You will be asked to provide the name and mailing address for the primary subscriber on your plan(s).

Please visit the vote page at <a href="https://www.embark.ca/fsspvote">www.embark.ca/fsspvote</a> to view other important vote-related information, including the Management Information Circular and one-pager, Your Vote is Important, that summarizes the features and benefits of the Embark Student Plan.

Can I request a paper copy of the Management Information Circular? Yes. To request a paper copy of the Circular, please call 1-800-363-7377 or email vote@embark.ca before 5:00 PM EST on Tuesday, November 21, 2023. This will ensure you receive the document well before the vote deadline. We will mail the Circular to you within three business days of receiving your request.

As a reminder, the Management Information Circular is available for download and print at <a href="https://www.embark.ca/fsspvote">www.embark.ca/fsspvote</a>.

# **Voting Information**

#### Who can vote?

Each customer with assets in a Family Single Student Plan as of October 16, 2023 (the date of record) is entitled to vote. In cases where two customers jointly hold a Plan, they are entitled to one vote.

Note: Customers who have less than one whole unit in their Plan, or have withdrawn and cancelled their Plan, or have a grant-only Plan, are not eligible to vote.

Customers may appoint another person to attend and act on their behalf at the Special Meeting. To appoint someone to represent you at the Special Meeting:

• Strike out the names of the persons specified in the Proxy Form and insert the name of the person to be appointed in the blank space so provided.



• Sign the Proxy Form and return it in the Business Reply Envelope enclosed in your mailing package. The package must be received by Computershare before 2PM EST on December 8, 2023.

#### What do I need to vote?

The Proxy Form that was sent to you contains a 15-digit Control Number (printed in the bottom left-hand corner of the page). This number is unique to you and is required for you to vote in advance or at the Special Meeting should you wish to attend virtually.

#### How do I cast my vote?

You can cast your vote at the Special Meeting in-person or virtually. To streamline the virtual meeting, we are encouraging customers to vote in advance of the meeting no later than 2PM EST on Friday, December 8, 2023.

There are several ways to vote in advance of the meeting:

- Online, through a secure website: Go to <a href="www.investorvote.com">www.investorvote.com</a> or scan
  the QR code on the Proxy Form. The dedicated website describes your voting
  options and provides the ability to cast your vote.
- **By phone**: Vote by calling 1-866-732-VOTE (8683) and follow the interactive prompts.
- **By mail**: Cast your vote on the Proxy Form included in your mailing package. Sign, date and return the form using the included postage-paid business reply envelope.
- **By hand**: Customers can return the completed, signed and dated Proxy Form to: Computershare Trust Company of Canada Proxy Department; 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, 100 University Avenue; Toronto, ON L5J 2Y1.

### Is there a deadline to place my vote?

We encourage customers to review the materials sent by mail and posted on www.embark.ca/fsspvote, and to vote in advance of the Special Meeting by submitting their **proxy votes before 2:00 PM EST on Friday, December 8, 2023**. Please reach out with any questions about the proposed changes by phone at 1-800-363-7377, Option 2 or by email at vote@embark.ca, Family Single Student Customers may also cast their vote by attending the Special Meeting on December 12, 2023 at 2PM EST, virtually or in-person. If another person has been appointed to vote on their behalf at the Special Meeting, the



completed, dated and signed Proxy Form must be handed in before the meeting starts.

#### How do I vote at the Special Meetings?

Customers or their appointed proxyholder may also cast their vote by attending the Special Meetings on December 12, 2023 virtually or in person. See the <u>Meeting</u> <u>Guide</u> for more details.

If you have appointed another person to vote on your behalf at the Special Meeting, the completed, dated and signed Proxy Form must be handed in before the meeting starts.

#### Is it mandatory to vote?

Voting is not mandatory but is highly encouraged. Please take a moment to read the <u>Your Vote is Important</u> one-pager for a summary of the features and benefits of the Embark Student Plan.

#### When will the vote results be available?

The results will be published within five business days following the Special Meeting.

### **Proposed Changes**

### Why the Embark Student Plan?

With the Embark Student Plan, Family Single Student Plan customers will have an enhanced RESP for the same 0.99% management fee. Features include:

- An investment that is tailored to your child's age and years to post-secondary education and automatically becomes more conservative as they age.
- Option to consolidate your savings into a family plan\*, allowing you to save for all your beneficiaries in one RESP.
- Digital tools to help you make the best decisions. You will have a personalized experience -- for example you will be able to forecast how much your child's education will cost; what you'll be able to pay for; receive alerts and track when you receive grants; and much more.



- Family Single Student Plan customers will receive a management fee rebate of 0.66% guaranteed until at least January 1, 2026. This means you'll get all the benefits of the enhanced Embark Student Plan for 0.99% - the same price as you pay today.

\*For the family plan option, each beneficiary must be related to you, either by blood or adoption. They may be your children, stepchildren, grandchildren, brothers, or sisters.

For customers with a low-risk profile, meaning that the risk assessment indicates that the investor is looking for a low level of investment volatility and is willing to accept lower returns for greater security, their Family Single Student Plan will transfer to the Embark Select Conservative Plan.

Why does Embark want to wind up the Family Single Student Plan? We want to reassure you that the Family Single Student Plan was an excellent way to save for your child's education. This vote is about making important upgrades –

transferring Family Single Student plans to our new Embark Student Plan --that cannot be made without approval from our customers.

The Embark Student Plan is the 'next generation' of an RESP – it offers an investment approach that is tailored to your child/children's age and time to their post-secondary education. In addition, you'll have access to a new digital experience, including tools to help you save, plan for your child's education and more!

With a majority 'yes' vote, you will have maximum flexibility and access to all these benefits without paying more. Currently, the Embark Student Plan management fee is 1.65%; with the rebate, you will pay 0.99% - the same amount you pay for your current Family Single Student Plan. Family Single Student Plan customers will receive a 0.66% management fee rebate until at least January 1, 2026.

I have three children and three Family Single Student Plans. How do I take advantage of the family plan option?

If the majority vote in favour of the proposed changes, there will be a one-to-one transfer from your existing Plan to an Embark Student Plan. Each of your plans will be transferred to new Embark Student Plan. If you are interested, we can then consolidate the plans into one.





## Glidepath

# How is the Embark Student Plan investment strategy tailored to my child's age and time to post-secondary?

The Embark Student Plan's investment strategy is tailored to your child's age and time to post-secondary education through its glidepath structure. The idea is to focus on growth when your child is young and time is on your side with more exposure to equities. As each child grows older, the plan automatically adjusts its asset allocation to become more conservative, preserving their savings as they are closer to post-secondary and needing to withdraw their savings.

For example, if your child is one year old – meaning they are 17 years away from starting post-secondary – the target asset mix will be 10% fixed income and 90% equities. The asset allocation will become more conservative as they grow older by increasing the proportion of fixed income in your child's plan. To preserve your savings once they are in post-secondary, 90% of your Plan will be allocated to fixed income.

The target asset mix by age of child is:

Year of Birth	Target Fixed Income Allocation	Target Equity Allocation
2021-2023	10.0%	90.0%
2018-2020	17.5%	82.5%
2015-2017	25.0%	75.0%
2012-2014	38.5%	61.5%
2009-2011	55.0%	45.0%
2006-2008	72.5%	27.5%
2005 or prior	90.0%	10.0%

### Who manages the Embark Student Plan?

The Embark Student Plan is managed and administered with the help of industry leading partners:

• Portfolio Manager: BMO Asset Management Inc.

Custodian: RBC Investor Services Trust

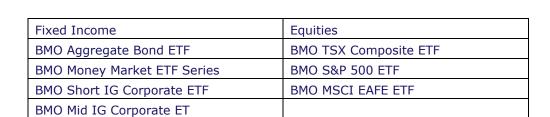
• Depository: The Bank of Nova Scotia

• Trustee: The Bank of Nova Scotia Trust Company

#### What does the Embark Student Plan invest in?

The Embark Student Plan is invested in several Bank of Montreal Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) that track against leading market indices (MSCI, S&P500, TSX60).





## Management Fee Rebate

### What is a management fee rebate?

The 0.66% management fee rebate is the equivalent of a discount on the Embark Student Plan management fee. Family Single Student Plan customers who transfer to Embark Student Plan will receive a management fee rebate of 0.66% until at least January 1, 2026.

Currently the posted management fee for the Embark Student Plan is 1.65%. If customers vote in favour of the changes, you will pay a management 0.99% instead of the current 1.65%, which is the same amount you currently pay for the Family Single Student Plan.

### Group Life and Disability Insurance

# Will I be able to add group life and disability insurance coverage to my new Embark Student Plan?

No. The Family Single Student Plan is a contract-based plan with deposit schedule obligations. Group life and disability insurance coverage was an included fee-based service to ensure your contributions continue if you died or became disabled. Since the Embark Student Plan is investment-based, and contributions are fully flexible for your needs and schedule, insurance is neither required nor offered.

# When will group life and total disability insurance coverage end? Insurance coverage will end when Family Single Student Plan assets are transferred, and the Foundation has entered into a new Education Assistance



Agreement for your new Embark Student Plan. Plan transfer is currently scheduled for July 1, 2024.

Any existing insurance claims will continue to be administered by Canadian Premier.

### **Digital Tools**

#### What digital tools are offered to Embark Student Plan customers?

With the Embark Student Plan, you will have access to a best-in-class digital plan management system. The enhanced features and tools are superior to those available to Family Single Student Plan customers. Some of the personalized digital features available to you 24/7 include the ability to:

- Track and manage your savings, including adding a beneficiary or cosubscriber.
- Forecast education costs and family budget.
- View returns daily
- Visualize your projected savings, using variable, user selected, estimated rates of return.
- Receive alerts and see a summary of grants received to date.
- Easily withdrawal capabilities that simplify and optimize the process

# If the majority of customers vote 'FOR' the proposed changes

# What changes will occur when transferring from a Family Single Student Plan to an Embark Student Plan?

If the majority of customers vote 'FOR' the proposed changes, the following will occur:

- In May 2024, we will determine if your plan(s) will be transferred to the Embark Select Conservative Plan or the Embark Student Plan.
- On or before July 1, 2024, Foundation will transfer assets to Embark Student Plan, terminate the existing ESP Contract, and enter into a new Education Assistance Agreement for each customer that includes a 0.66% management fee rebate, guaranteed until at least January 1, 2026.



- Group life and disability insurance feature and associated insurance premiums will be eliminated. Any existing insurance claims will continue to be administered by Canadian Premier.
- All plan documentation and correspondence will be delivered digitally.
- The Family Single Student Plan will wind up and the Trust Agreement will be terminated.

# What plan documentation and correspondence will be delivered digitally?

All Plan-related correspondence, alerts, notices and documentation will be delivered digitally through their secure account on embark.ca, including:

- Plan application and enrollment documents, and Education Assistance Agreement;
- Statements of Account;
- Annual Investment Performance Report and Report on Charges and Other Compensation;
- Transaction statements such as trade confirmations.

# Will I have the option to receive printed documentation and correspondence?

The Embark Plans are digital products and do not offer printing or mailing of planrelated correspondence (with the exception of tax documents).

### When will the plans be transferred?

The transfer is scheduled for July 1, 2024. Prior to the transfer, likely in May, 2024, we will determine if the Embark Select Conservative Plan or the Embark Student Plan is best suited to your situation. In making this determination, we will consider the personal and financial information collected when you opened your Plan along with any updates made since, including your investment objectives and risk profile. Customers with a medium-low to high risk profile, will be transferred to the Embark Student Plan and enjoy the benefits of the glidepath age-based investment strategy. Customers with a low risk profile will be transferred to the Embark Select Conservative Plan.

### What is a risk profile?

Considering a customer's overall personal and financial circumstances including liquidity needs, debts, income and assets, the risk profile is the lower of the



customer's **risk tolerance** and **risk capacity**. See refer to Schedule "C" in the Circular for detailed descriptions. In general,

- Risk tolerance describes an investor's willingness to accept volatility and short-term fluctuations in portfolio value.
- Risk capacity describes an investor's financial ability to endure potential losses.

### Why is a risk profile necessary?

As the manager of the funds, we must determine the most suitable approach to transfer your plan. The Embark Student Plan is suitable for investors with a 'low-medium' to 'high' risk profile. In May 2024, we will review your risk profile, age of your child and time to post-secondary education. If your risk profile is low -meaning you are looking for a low level of investment volatility and are willing to accept lower returns for greater security - your plan will be transferred to the Embark Select Conservative Plan.

To ensure you are placed in the plan that's right for you, please call our Contact Centre at 1-800-363-7377 before May 2024 and ask to speak with a licensed Customer Success Specialist to review and update your information.

# Can I transfer my existing plans to the Embark Student Plan family option?

Yes. If the majority of customers vote to the proposed changes, the first step will be to transfer each of your Plans to an individual Embark Student Plan. Once that is done, you can consolidate into one family plan\* to better manage and share your savings, grants and investment income between your children.

\*For the family plan option, each beneficiary must be related to you, either by blood or adoption. They may be your children, stepchildren, grandchildren, brothers, or sisters.

# Can I go back to my original plan if I decide I don't like the Embark Student Plan?

No. If the majority of customers vote 'FOR' the wind up of the Family Single Student Plan and to transfer assets to the Embark Student Plan, you will not have the option to go back to your original plan. Once the transfer is complete, the Family Single Student Plan will wind up.





### Product - Embark Plans

#### What are the Embark Plans?

The Embark Plans refer to the Embark Student Plan and the Embark Select Conservative Plan?

# What are the costs associated with investing in the Embark Student Plan?

There are no costs to open an Embark Student Plan. The competitive management fee of 1.65% plus applicable taxes is calculated based on net asset value of all plan savings.

Family Single Student Plan customers will receive a 0.66% management fee rebate, guaranteed until January 1, 2026. If the majority of customers vote "FOR" the proposed changes, this rebate also applies to any future contributions, transfers in, and any children added to your Plan.

#### What is the Embark Select Conservative Plan?

The Embark Select Conservative Plan is an RESP that is suitable for investors with a low risk profile – meaning that the risk assessment indicates that the investor is looking for a low level of investment volatility and is willing to accept lower returns for greater security.

# Can I choose the Embark Select Conservative Plan rather than Embark Student Plan?

Embark will transfer you into one of the two plans depending on your risk tolerance and capacity. **To ensure you are transferred to a suitable plan, please call our Contact Centre at 1-800-363-7377 before May 2024** and ask to speak with a licensed Customer Success Specialist to review and update your information. Once transferred, you will be able to choose to move your savings to the other plan, provided it is suitable to your risk profile.



# Product – Family Single Student Plan

#### What does the Family Single Student Plan invest in?

The target asset allocation for the Family Single Student Plan is 60% fixed income and up to 40% equities. It does not change based on your child's age and time to post-secondary education.

The Plan invests mainly in Canadian fixed income securities, such as federal, provincial and/or municipal bonds, and corporate bonds with a minimum credit rating of BBB or equivalent. In addition, no more than 40% of the Plan's net assets may be invested in exchange-traded equity securities listed on a stock exchange in Canada or the U.S.

With the glidepath, age-based investment strategy, the Embark Student Plan is growth-oriented when your child is younger, and time is on your side. As your child ages, the plan automatically becomes more conservative, by adding more fixed income investments, to protect your savings from market downturns when you need the money for their education.

### What is the group life and total disability insurance?

The Family Single Student Plan is a contract-based product with deposit schedule obligations. Group life and total disability insurance is an included fee-based service to ensure contributions will continue if you die or become disabled. When you enrolled in the Family Single Student Plan, you would have received an insurance certificate that outlines the terms of your coverage, including eligibility, limits of liability, exclusions and conditions for benefit payments.

Coverage is only offered for subscribers between 18 and 64 years old (optional in Quebec) and is administered by Canadian Premier Life Insurance Corp. The cost is 17 cents for every \$10 contributed, plus applicable taxes.

With the Embark Student Plan, contributions are fully flexible, and insurance is not required. This means every dollar contributed to your Plan goes towards your education savings.

