



## LIFE All-Stars Participant FAQ

**Life All-Stars | Financial Literacy for Disadvantage Youth in Fort Bend County,  
TX, USA**

**<https://www.life-all-stars.org>**

## 1. About LIFE All-Stars:

### **Q: What is the Mission of The LIFE All-Stars?**

A: The Mission of The LIFE All-Stars is to:

- 1) Provide Age-Appropriate Financial Education to Disadvantaged Youth (Age 4 – 18) in Fort Bend County Texas leveraging the FDIC.gov Money Smart curriculum.
- 2) Contribute and provide \$-for-\$ matching (up to \$600+ per participant/year) to provide investment growth. Funds are uniformly invested in the low-cost Vanguard S&P 500 Large Cap ETF (VOO).
- 3) Upon reaching the age 18, the LIFE All-Stars gift the accumulated funds to the participant to provide for their welfare/needs or further investment.

## 2. Investment Strategy:

### **Q: What is the advantage of investing in an S&P 500 Index Fund vs. a Bank Savings Account?**

A: Our organization has elected to invest our gifts for each participant in the Vanguard S&P 500 ETF (VOO), which is an S&P 500 Index Fund. The S&P 500 historically has been the benchmark for investments. There is no guarantee of a specific return on the investment, and there is the potential to lose money. Interest received from a bank savings account is less because there is no risk of losing the principal value.

### **The cost of not investing**

Over 10 years, the returns on a \$100 investment tracking the S&P 500 are four times those of traditional savings accounts.



**Q: Why should I sign-up my child for the LIFE Program?**

A: The LIFE All-Stars is a non-profit organization that is focused on providing a Life-skills and financial advantage to disadvantaged youth in Fort Bend County. We provide Participants with the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of Finance, Money, Interest, Investment, Taxes, Credit Cards, Growth, Liabilities, Wants vs. Needs and other concepts. These are key elements for making good financial decisions and having a better life. We have a regular curriculum of 6 lessons per year that we'll share with participants to give them a basic understanding of these key concepts. The materials are age-appropriate concepts that are based on FDIC.Gov Money Smart Curriculum. The LIFE All-Stars provide these Financial Literacy lessons for free; we provide lunch and drinks for the participant and hope to help young families understand these key concepts.

In addition, if participants sign-up to join LIFE All-Stars Program, we will:

- 1) Establish a Vanguard Brokerage Account to track investments, dividends and deposits
- 2) Fund the Account with:
  - a. Attendance Credit of \$100/participant/calendar year after the Participant attends three (3) LIFE Program Financial Literacy Lessons in that year.
  - b. Attendance at each subsequent Lesson makes the Participant eligible for either a \$33 or \$34 Attendance Credit to the Account for a maximum Attendance Credit of \$200/participant/calendar year.
  - c. Parent/Guardian Contributions (up to \$100/participant/calendar year) will be accepted/deposited to the Account after the participant has attended three (3) LIFE Program Financial Literacy Lessons in that calendar year.
  - d. \$-for-\$ Match Credit (up to \$100/participant/calendar year) will match the Parent/Guardian Contribution.
  - e. The "All-Stars" may provide direct monetary payments/grants/gifts to the Participant, as part of our "Friend-Referral-Program" or other cash incentive initiatives. These cash disbursements/funds are eligible for a \$-for-\$ matching credit and are not subject to the Guardian contribution limit.
- 3) The LIFE All-Stars will provide lessons, participation awards and matching each year until the participant turns 18 years old. Once the participant reaches age 18, the LIFE All-Stars will award/gift the account balance to the Participant and they can either continue to invest or withdraw funds to support their welfare.

### **3. About LIFE Program:**

**Q: Can you explain how matching into my Child's Account will work?**

A: A parent/guardian or any other individual can donate money to your child's Account by writing a check to "LIFE All-Stars" with your child's name in the memo section. The LIFE All-Stars will electronically deposit the check into the Vanguard Brokerage Account associated with your child. Once the check clears, we'll transfer the matching LIFE All-Star funds from our Bank account and invest the funds in the Vanguard S&P 500 Large Cap ETF Fund (VOO). We will not accept nor match gifts greater than \$100/participant/calendar year.

**Q: What if I don't have a checking account? Can you deposit and match cash payments into my Child's LIFE Account?**

A: Yes. LIFE All-Stars can accept cash and we will electronically deposit the amount into the Vanguard Brokerage Account including our \$-for-\$ match (up to \$100). Once the funds "land" in the account, we will invest the funds in the Vanguard S&P 500 Large Cap ETF Fund (VOO).

**Q: Can I give more than \$100 to my child's LIFE All-Star Account in any calendar year?**

A: No. LIFE All-Stars will not accept, match, nor deposit your (or anyone's) gifts into the Vanguard Account that total more than \$100 in any calendar year.

**Q: Why don't you accept and match gifts of more than \$100 per calendar year to a child's LIFE All-Stars Account?**

A: We have established \$100 per calendar year per child to be a reasonable limit to maximize the impact our donations have on children in Fort Bend County.

**Q: Can my child withdraw funds from the LIFE All-Star Account prior to turning Age 18?**

A: No. Funds contributed and matched by the LIFE All-Stars are to be gifted/awarded only when the participant turns age 18. The investments are intended to provide for the future needs of the participant once they reach the age 18. It is not intended to provide for the current needs of the participant.

**Q: If I withdraw my child from the LIFE program before they turn Age 18, will the LIFE All-Stars refund our contributions?**

A: Yes. All Guardian and Participant contributions (Principal) made to the "Account" will be refunded to the Guardian/Participant. However, any Attendance Credits, \$-for-\$ Match Credits and investment gains/losses realized from the investments will be forfeited.

#### **4. Additional Information:**

**Q: Can my child participate in The LIFE All-Stars if they do not have a Social Security Number?**

A: Yes. The Vanguard Corporate Brokerage Account is “owned” by The LIFE All-Stars nonprofit and is used as a vehicle to track and account for donations, gifts, dividends and investment growth in the account. The account is not “owned” by the participant. The non-taxable payment to the participant at age 18 is a gift.

**Q: Can a Participant be disqualified or dismissed from the LIFE All-Stars Program?**

A: Yes. Failure by the Participant or Guardian to abide by the Program Participation guidelines may result in the Participant being removed from the Program. Dismissed Participants will not receive future benefits or services until or unless they sign a new Program Participation Agreement, which may have different terms and benefits, and The LIFE All-Stars Board of Directors agrees to re-admit the Participant to the Program. The Vanguard Brokerage Account will remain in effect until the child reaches age 18. Once the child turns 18 years old, a request can be made to The LIFE All-Stars to gift the accumulated fund in the Account to the child.

**Q: What happens if you lose contact with a Participant, or they become incapacitated.**

A: If a Participant becomes inactive or disqualified/dismissed from the program, the child will have until they turn age 19 years old to contact The LIFE All-Stars to request their gift. If they fail to contact us via any of the viable channels, the funds accumulated in the account will be considered forfeit.

**Q: Do we need to report the accumulated value of the funds in the LIFE All-Stars Brokerage Account?**

A: No. Funds contained in The LIFE All-Stars Corporate Brokerage Accounts are not “owned” by the participant. The Participant does not report nor pay taxes on the dividends, the Account is not tied to the Social Security Number for the Participant, nor do they report the account balance as part of the wealth of the household for College Student Aid nor against income for Government Assistance means testing. It is simply an accounting of value that gives the participant an “idea” of the magnitude of the potential LIFE All-Stars gift they can receive at Age 18, but it is not “owned” by the participant until the accumulated value of the account is gifted to the participant on their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## 2026 LIFE Program: Financial Literacy + Contributions + Matching

	Spring 2026			Fall 2026		
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6
Attendance Credit			\$100	\$33	\$33	\$34
Guardian Contribution (optional)			\$	\$	\$	\$
\$-for-\$ Credits			\$	\$	\$	\$
Refer-A-Friend w/ \$-for-\$ Credits						

- \$200
- \$100 Max
- \$100 Max
- \$200 +

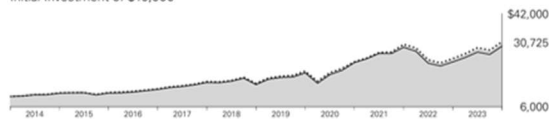
**Max Contribution per Participant / Year = \$600+**

### VOO Vanguard S&P 500 ETF

#### Performance Summary

All of the returns in this report represent past performance, which is not a guarantee of future results that may be achieved by the fund. (Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data cited. For performance data current to the most recent month-end, visit our website at [vanguard.com/performance](http://vanguard.com/performance).) Note, too, that both investment returns and principal value can fluctuate widely, so an investor's shares, when sold, could be worth more or less than their original cost. The returns shown do not reflect taxes that a shareholder would pay on fund distributions or on the sale of fund shares.

Cumulative Performance: December 31, 2013, Through December 31, 2023  
Initial Investment of \$10,000



	Average Annual Total Returns Periods Ended December 31, 2023			Final Value of a \$10,000 Investment
	One Year	Five Years	Ten Years	
VOO Index Fund Investor Shares	26.11%	15.53%	11.88%	\$30,725
S&P 500 Index	26.29	15.69	12.03	31,149
Dow Jones U.S. Total Stock Market Float Adjusted Index	26.06	15.05	11.40	29,422

VOO-Vanguard S&P 500 ETF | Vanguard

**5. Eligibility:**

**Q: This program sounds amazing! What are the Eligibility Requirements for my child to participate?**

A: There are three requirements for children to formally join the LIFE All-Stars program:

- 1) The child must be a resident of Fort Bend County,
- 2) The child must be eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Lunch as determined by the TEA 2025-2026 Income Eligibility Guidelines. (<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2025-03-13/pdf/2025-03821.pdf>)
- 3) The child must either attend 3 youth financial literacy sessions in one calendar year, or 3 consecutive youth financial literacy sessions.

**Q: What are the TEA 2025-2026 Income Eligibility Guidelines?**

A: The Federal Government, under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, have determined the annual, monthly, weekly household income limits that determine a child’s eligibility to be enrolled in the Free or Reduced-price school lunch program. The income limits are determined by the size of the household and are 130% or 185% of the Federal poverty guidelines.

The following table reflects the 2025-2026 Income Eligibility Guidelines:

**INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES**  
[Effective from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026]

Household size	Federal poverty guidelines Annual	Reduced Price Meals—185%				
		Annual	Monthly	Twice per month	Every two weeks	Weekly
<b>48 Contiguous States, District of Columbia, Guam, and T</b>						
1 .....	15,650	28,953	2,413	1,207	1,114	557
2 .....	21,150	39,128	3,261	1,631	1,505	753
3 .....	26,650	49,303	4,109	2,055	1,897	949
4 .....	32,150	59,478	4,957	2,479	2,288	1,144
5 .....	37,650	69,653	5,805	2,903	2,679	1,340
6 .....	43,150	79,828	6,653	3,327	3,071	1,536
7 .....	48,650	90,003	7,501	3,751	3,462	1,731
8 .....	54,150	100,178	8,349	4,175	3,853	1,927
For each add'l family member, add .....	5,500	10,175	848	424	392	196

**Q: Am I able to sign the LIFE All-Stars 2025 Participation Agreement if our household exceeds the TEA 2025-2026 Income Eligibility Guidelines?**

A: Unfortunately, no. Our program is dedicated to underserved youth that live in Fort Bend County.

**Q: Are there resources we can use if our child is not eligible for the LIFE All-Stars Program?**

A: Yes! Our materials are free to use, you can leverage our website, subscribe to our YouTube Channel or use the free FDIC Money Smart Materials & “How Money Smart Are You?” online game.

**Contacts:** Brad Wood – Executive Director [Brad.Wood@Life-All-Stars.org](mailto:Brad.Wood@Life-All-Stars.org)

**Resources:**

QR Code	Resource	Web Link
	Life All-Stars Website	<a href="https://www.life-all-stars.org">https://www.life-all-stars.org</a>
	YouTube Channel:	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/@LIFE-ALL-STARs/videos">https://www.youtube.com/@LIFE-ALL-STARs/videos</a>  PreK-5 <sup>th</sup> Grade and Teen Financial Literacy Lessons
	FDIC “How Money Smart Are You?” online Game.	<a href="https://playmoneysmart.fdic.gov/games">https://playmoneysmart.fdic.gov/games</a>  Create ID & Password Join LIFE All-Stars org