

Report Card

FALL 2021

Consider These Year-End
Financial Decisions

Looking For A Deal On A
New Car?

How To Avoid Holiday Debt



"SchoolsFirst FCU has been
my community advocate since
I established Membership."

RICHARD B.
MEMBER SINCE 1995

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Managing through the ongoing pandemic is still top of mind for Americans. A recent study showed that 60% of respondents indicated feeling anxious when thinking about their personal finances, while 50% indicated feeling stressed when discussing their finances.

Your Credit Union is here to help if you are having a hard time coping with financial stress. We believe that everyone benefits from professional and personalized financial guidance. Even if you're on solid footing, you may be looking for ways to improve your financial well-being and guard against the unexpected.

You also may wonder what the best steps are to buying a house in a competitive market, or a car when prices are at a premium. In our featured Member story, Richard says it best: "They look out for my best interests. It's an extra level of security."

Like Richard, we are here to help you with all your financial needs. We look for optimal savings when refinancing your loans, helping you pay down debt and plan a budget, and reviewing your insurance needs. Our team of licensed financial advisors are

here to discuss investing for your future, developing an estate plan and saving for other goals, such as your children's education. In addition, our financial partner, GreenPath Financial Wellness, offers one-on-one, confidential financial coaching so you can develop a spending plan, or build an emergency fund.

Know that we will get through this together. I hope you will take advantage of all the ways we are here for you. Our collective strength shows that we have the power to make things better, for each and every Member and the communities we live and serve in.

As we celebrate International Credit Union Day next month, I hope you will reflect on how far we've come. Together, we're building financial health for a brighter tomorrow.

Thank you for being part of the SchoolsFirst FCU family.

With kindest regards,

Bill Cheney | PRESIDENT/CEO



RICHARD B.
MEMBER SINCE 1995

REAL MEMBER, REAL SAVINGS

Growing up, Richard's mother worked at his school, first as the principal's assistant and then as a secretary. "I couldn't get away with the things other kids did, because my mom worked there," he recalls.

His mom helped him get his first job in education and eventually Richard ended up working for the Orange County Department of Education, teaching at juvenile hall, a position he has held for 25 years. He opened an account at the Credit Union after getting one of his first paychecks. "SchoolsFirst FCU has been my community advocate since I established Membership," he says.

Richard appreciates the Credit Union because it understands his unique situation as an educator. "There is ease and comfort knowing someone has already thought about what my needs are. So when I get around to researching the things I want — a computer loan, school supply loan, or a share certificate — it makes the process that much easier."

Richard has benefited from a host of products, including new and used auto loans, a HELOC, College Saver Share Certificates and a School Employee Mastercard®, and relies on us to help his family thrive financially. "They look out for my best interests. It's an extra level of security," he says.

WATCH RICHARD'S VIDEO IN OUR MEMBER STORIES SECTION ON [EXTRACREDIT.SCHOOLSFIRSTFCU.ORG](https://extracredit.schoolsfirstfcu.org)



Celebrating International Credit Union Day

On Thursday, Oct. 21, our global credit union family will celebrate the 73rd anniversary of International Credit Union Day. Since 1948, credit unions around the world have taken this day to reflect upon the credit union movement's history, promote its achievements and share Member experiences.

Stop by a local branch on Oct. 21 and celebrate with your SchoolsFirst FCU family.



Shopping For A New Car?

We offer a range of competitive rates and flexible terms to fit almost every financial situation. Get pre-approved and visit the dealer with your financing in hand.

And if you're looking for tips on how to get the right car for you, read "Looking For A Deal On A New Car?" on [ExtraCredit.SchoolsFirstFCU.ORG](https://extracredit.schoolsfirstfcu.org).

CONSIDER THESE YEAR-END FINANCIAL DECISIONS

SET YOURSELF UP FOR SUCCESS WITH THESE TIPS



REVISIT YOUR SPENDING PLAN

If you haven't looked at your budget in a while, it may be time to review and adjust.



START OR REPLENISH AN EMERGENCY FUND

The best way to avoid debt overload is to have an emergency fund. Try taking 10% of your income and earmarking it for savings.



FIGURE OUT A DEBT PAY-DOWN PLAN

First, optimize your budget by cutting non-essentials so more of your money can be put toward your debt. Consider setting up a debt management plan with our partner, GreenPath Financial Wellness, to lower your interest rates and pay off debt faster.



INCREASE YOUR RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

If your employer sponsors a 401(k), 403(b) or 457(b) retirement plan, it may match your contributions — typically from 2% to 8%. Make sure you're contributing at least the maximum of the match.



GIVE TO CHARITY

Just as you may be doing some financial housekeeping, think about ways you can clean up your home and give back. In addition to giving cash, donations of clothing, and even a car, can really make a difference in helping others.



GET SOME FINANCIAL COACHING

One of the best parts of being a Member is getting advice from financial advisors who don't work on commission and will help you find solutions tailored to your unique situation.

READ THE FULL ARTICLE ON
[EXTRACREDIT.SCHOOLSFIRSTFCU.ORG](https://extracredit.schoolsfirstfcu.org)

HOW TO AVOID HOLIDAY DEBT

Create A Spending Plan

One financial rule of thumb suggests spending no more than 1% of your overall income. Do you think you'll spend more? Consider getting a holiday job or cutting back on extras and putting that money toward your purchases.

Make A List (And Check It Twice)

A list can help you determine whom you're buying for and the amount you want to spend on each person. Include any extras, like gifts for office parties, school events or charities. It's helpful to add what you'd

like to buy, because you can shop around for the best deals on these items.

Use Credit Wisely

Depending on how you use your credit options, you can benefit from holiday shopping. For instance, if you like traveling, or getting cash back, then a rewards card may be just the ticket. Remember, if you don't pay off your balance in full, the interest you'll end up paying won't be worth the rewards you get in return. And if you do tend to carry a balance, use the

card with the lowest interest rate.

Traveling? Think Ahead

If you plan to fly during the holidays, it's best to book airfare ahead of time to get the best deals. But if you need to wait until the last minute, you may save money if you fly in the early morning, or take a red-eye flight. You'll also get better prices flying on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Saturday. And flying on Thanksgiving and Christmas may help you save money too.

FINANCIAL WORKSHOPS

Please visit: schoolsfirstfcu.org/workshops to learn more and register.

Home Buying Essentials

6:00 – 7:00 p.m. on:

- OCT. 7, 14, 21, 28
- NOV. 4, 11, 18

Living Trusts & Estate Planning

5:30 – 6:30 p.m. on:

- OCT. 21
- NOV. 17
- DEC. 15

Long-term Care Planning

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. on:

- OCT. 12

Retirement Planning for School Employees

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. on:

- OCT. 2, 9, 16, 23
- NOV. 6, 13, 20, 27
- DEC. 4, 11, 18

YOU'RE FAMILY. SO IS YOUR FAMILY.

There's more to family Membership than you might know.

No two families are alike. But one thing we all need is a trusted financial partner. Share with your family they're eligible for Membership so they can enjoy the same benefits you do.

YOU MAY BE SURPRISED BY HOW
MUCH OF YOUR FAMILY IS

◀ **ELIGIBLE TO JOIN:**



▲ ALL COUPLES

Unmarried couples¹ who live together, not just married spouses.



▲ CHILDREN

Related by blood, marriage or adoption, no matter their age.²



▲ PARENTS

Membership doesn't have to be shared by a parent to their child — adults can share the Membership with their parents too.



▲ GRANDPARENTS AND GRANDKIDS

Whether you live under the same roof or not.

WHAT ABOUT AUNTS, UNCLES, COUSINS, NIECES AND NEPHEWS?

They're not eligible directly through you, but would be through your parents or siblings once they become Members.

TELL YOUR FAMILY THEY'RE ELIGIBLE TO JOIN THE CREDIT UNION YOU LOVE.

It's easy — they can do it themselves online.³ There's no need for them to visit a branch, or for you to accompany them.

1. Supporting documentation of domestic partnership or joint financial obligation required.
2. Supporting documentation required. 3. Eligibility for Membership subject to verification and ChexSystems review. Minimum \$5 deposit required to establish Membership.

We're Here For You

Go Online

schoolsfirstfcu.org

Call Us

800.462.8328 | Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. | Saturday, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Emergency After-Hours Card Support

Available 365 days a year from 5 a.m. to midnight.

TellerPhone

800.540.4546

Download Mobile Banking

Available in the App Store and Google Play.



ATM Locations

Visit our website or Mobile Banking app for a complete listing of more than 28,000 fee-free ATMs.

Find Us

Visit schoolsfirstfcu.org/branches or use our Mobile Banking app to find a branch or ATM near you.

Holiday Notice

In observance of these holidays, our branches, in-store branches, service centers and Member Contact Center will be closed.

Thursday, Nov. 11

Thursday, Nov. 25

Friday, Nov. 26

Closed at noon, Friday, Dec. 24

(In-store branches close at 1 p.m.)

Saturday, Dec. 25

Veterans Day

Thanksgiving Day

Day after Thanksgiving Day

Christmas Eve

Christmas Day

Get Social With Us!



Join our communities and be among the first to learn about new products, services, video workshops and special promotions. Plus, share your story with us; we would love to hear from you!



Insured
by NCUA.

1. Financial Professionals are registered representatives of CUNA Brokerage Services, Inc. Representatives are registered, securities sold, advisory services offered through CUNA Brokerage Services, Inc. (CBSI), member FINRA/SIPC, a registered broker/dealer and investment advisor, which is not an affiliate of the Credit Union. CBSI is under contract with the Credit Union to make securities available to Members. **Not NCUA/NCUSIF/FDIC insured, may lose value, no financial institution guarantee, and not an obligation of the Credit Union. Not a deposit of any financial institution.** CUNA Brokerage Services, Inc. is a registered broker/dealer in all 50 states of the United States of America.