Financial Education Flyer

Educational newsletter published for the members of Alaska Air Group Credit Union

In this month's flyer, you'll learn the different kinds of savings accounts, how to read the disclosures, and how to make informed decisions based on your savings needs.

September 2026

Types of Savings Accounts

Regular Savings Account: Primary savings account that establishes credit union membership and earns dividends. Usually more flexible with lower minimum balance requirements and less fees than Money Market or High-Yield type accounts.

Sub-Savings Account: An additional savings account to help organize money toward specific goals.

Youth Savings: Saving accounts for those ages 17 and under to establish smart saving habits.

Share Certificate: Earn a fixed, higher dividend rate by locking in funds for a set term. Early withdrawal penalties may apply.

Money Market Account: Earn a higher dividend rate on your funds while still being able to withdraw your funds within a reasonable time frame. Often have withdrawal limits, tiered dividend structures, and higher minimum deposit requirements.

High-Yield Savings Account: Very similar to regular savings accounts, but typically offer a higher dividend rate. Often have withdrawal limits, tiered dividend structures, and higher minimum deposit requirements as well.

Reading the fine print

- Verify that your accounts are federally insured and up to how much is protected.
- Differentiate whether the advertised Annual Percentage Yield (APY) applies to your entire balance or just a portion of it.
- Review if the account uses tiered rates depending on your balance, and if based on your balance that is the right account for you.
- Some accounts only pay the leading rate if you're meeting additional requirements (such as setting up direct deposit, being an e-statement subscriber, or only depositing new funds), make sure you understand what's necessary.
- Review monthly maintenance fees and learn how to avoid them.
- Confirm the minimum balance for each account and any ongoing balance requirements.
- Understand the withdrawal limits on your accounts and any fees for exceeding them.
- Review any policies on dormant accounts and early account closures.

Truth in Savings

The Truth in Savings (TIS) Act requires banks and credit unions to clearly disclose information about savings accounts, to help consumers make informed decisions.

The TIS disclosures include Annual Percentage Yield (APY), dividend/interest rates, fees/service charges, minimum balance requirements, account terms, and withdrawal restrictions. Understanding these disclosures for every account you have can help you understand account differences, avoid unexpected fees, and make educated financial decisions.

Take the time to find, read, and understand these disclosures for each of your accounts to ensure that you are earning the dividend rates you believe you should be earning and are not getting unexpected fees.

Choosing which Saving Account is best for you

Emergency fund: A sub-savings account with a high APY provides the easiest access to your funds in a moment's notice. A high-yield savings account can also be a great option, but be sure to understand what withdrawal policies are in place for your account.

Long-term savings: Share certificates may offer a higher return if you lock your funds in for a set period of time.

Everyday savings: A standard savings account is great for building healthy saving habits. AAGCU offers a great Regular Savings Account with a competitive rate and only a $5 minimum balance.

Questions to consider before opening an account

- Are there any monthly service fees or transaction fees?
- Is there a balance requirement to earn interest or avoid fees?
- How easy is it to transfer or withdrawal funds when needed?
- What requirements are necessary to earn the leading rate?
- Is there a fee to move funds out of an account?
- How many transfers can you make in a month?
- Where can I find Truth-in-Savings Disclosures?
- What guidelines are surrounding the promotional rate?
- Does the promotional rate apply to all funds, or only new money added?

Read full AAGCU Truth-in-savings here

AAGCU Accounts

AAGCU Regular Savings
- No monthly service fees.
- Only $5 minimum balance.
- No tiered rates, earn leading dividends by opening account.
- Unlimited monthly transfers.

Save Your Way sub-savings accounts
- No monthly service fees
- No minimum balance requirements.
- Earns the same competitive dividend rate as Regular Savings.
- Unlimited monthly transfers.
- Open as many accounts as you would like and customize the names to make budgeting a breeze!

Share Certificates
- No monthly service fees.
- Fixed rates, higher than regular AAGCU savings rates.
- Multiple terms available.

Youth Savings Accounts
- No monthly service fees.
- Earn higher rate at first $500, anything exceeding earns the same APY as Regular Savings.

AAGCU strives to offer our best rates to all our members, all the time. In doing so, we do not offer promotional or "new money only" savings accounts.

Being well-informed is vital for making smart decisions about what savings accounts are best for you and your goals. If you have any questions about AAGCU savings accounts, please contact member services at 206.824.9800 or info@aagcu.org.