

YOUR WHOLE STORY

Retirement Savings
Field Notes

Saving for retirement doesn't have to be that complicated, or difficult. In this booklet, you'll find a collection of our favorite helpful tips that can help you along your retirement savings journey.

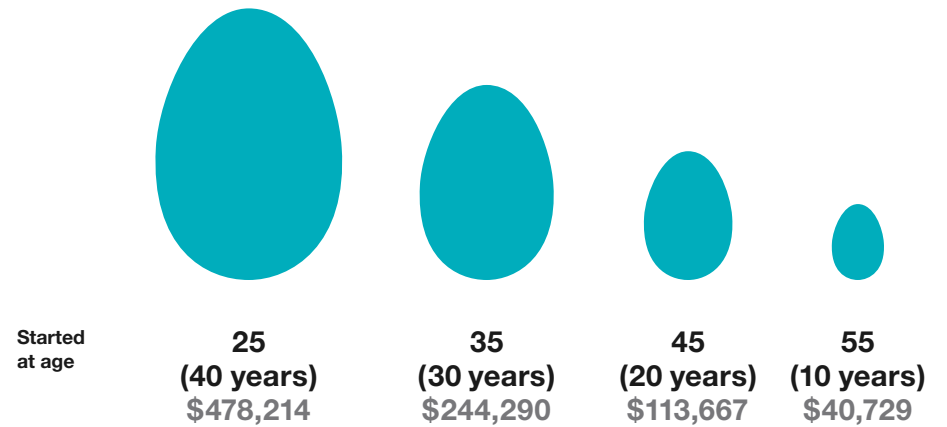
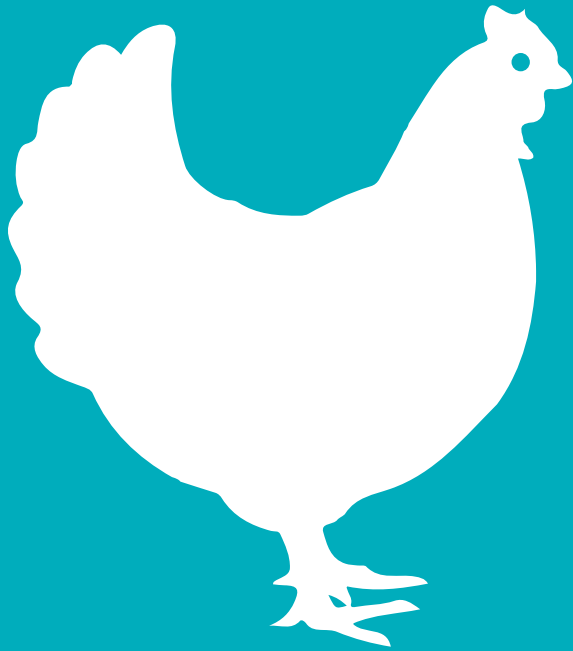


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Retirement Journey Field Note #1
**Start As Soon
As Possible**

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**One of the smartest things you
can do on the way to retirement
is to start saving as soon as you
are able to.**



It only takes 10 minutes to join your company's retirement savings plan. To join, use the enrollment form at retirement.wyo.gov under **Deferred Compensation, Forms. If you are not able to save more today, make a budget or a plan to start when you can.**

This illustration is a hypothetical compounding example. It shows the impact of contributing 6% of a \$50,000 annual salary (i.e., \$3,000) at a 6% annual effective rate of return. The example shows the result of contributing over the course of 40, 30, 20, and 10 years (assuming equal contribution amounts each month and a retirement age 65) to highlight the advantages of starting to save earlier in life. This illustration is not intended to represent the performance of any specific investment. Actual returns and principal values will fluctuate. Taxes are due when the money is withdrawn from the DC plan.

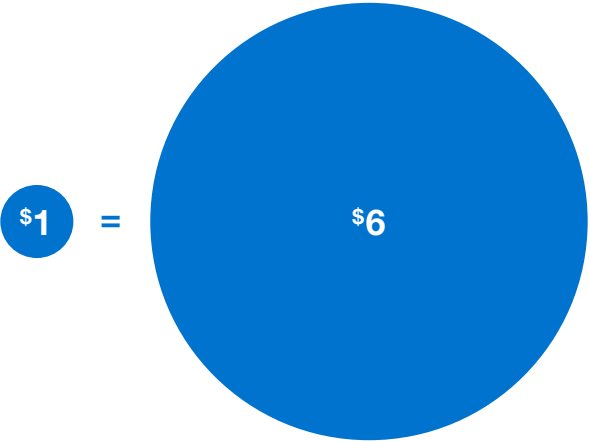
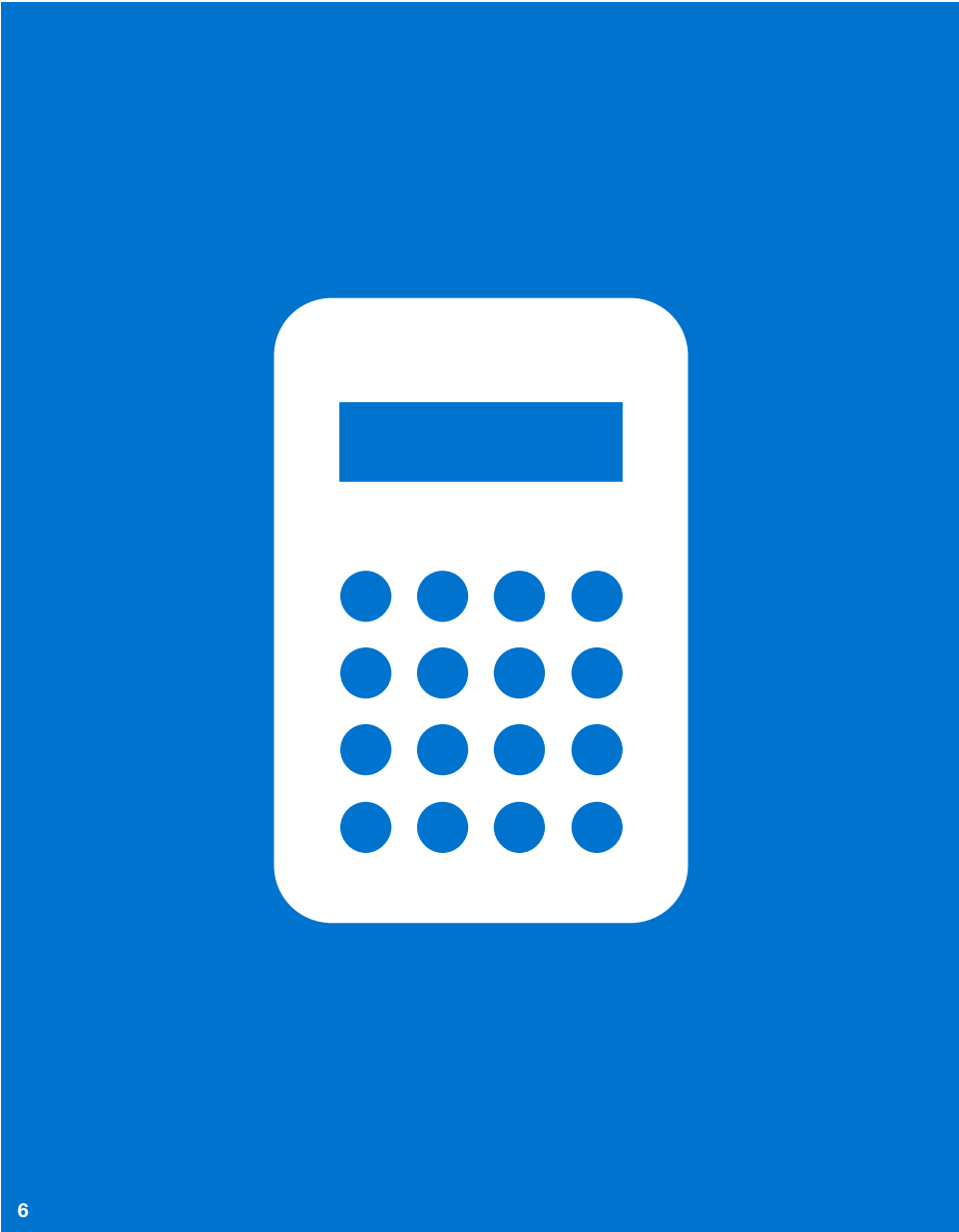
Make sure to check your statement when it comes—it's a helpful tool to make sure you are on the right path.

Things to review in your statement:

- Your contribution levels**
- Fees you are paying**
- Performance of investment**
- Beneficiary designations**
- Retirement income projections**
- Contact information**



Your tax advantaged savings can multiply with the power of compound interest.



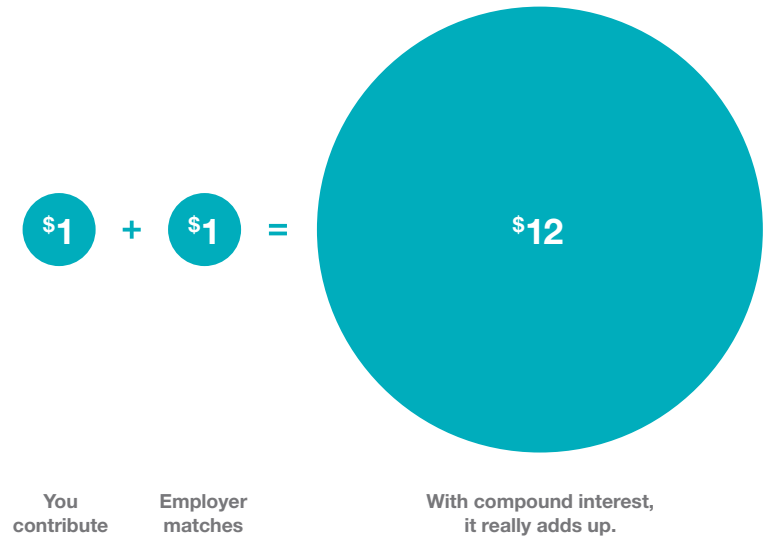
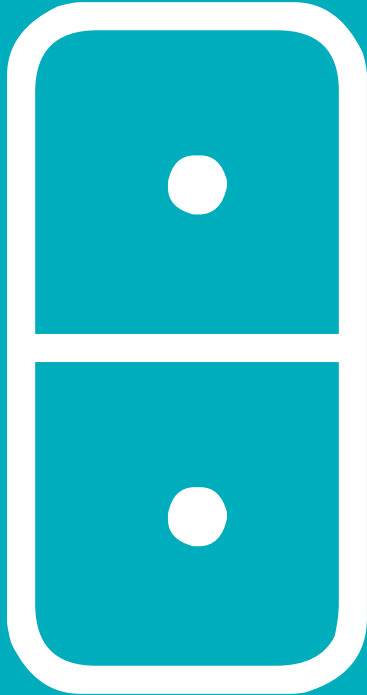
You contribute

With compound interest,
it really adds up.

Experts recommend contributing at least 10% of your current income to your future retirement. Check to see how much you are contributing. Look at your statement or log into your 457 account by creating a username and password at retirement.wyo.gov.

This illustration is a hypothetical compounding example that assumes biweekly salary deferrals (for 30 years) at a 6% annual effective rate of return. It illustrates the principle of time and compounding. This chart is for illustrative purposes only and is not intended to represent the performance of any specific investment. Actual returns will vary and principal value will fluctuate. Taxes are due when money is withdrawn.

If you receive a match from your employer, it is an extra form of compensation that you are entitled to. Make sure you don't leave any money behind.

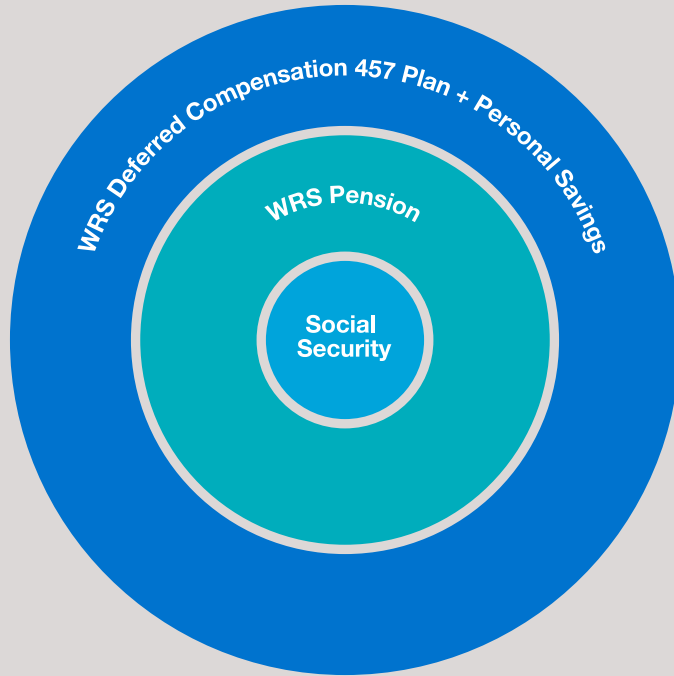


Are you receiving all of the compensation you are entitled to? Check your contribution amount to make sure you are receiving the full match. For more information contact your payroll center.

This illustration is a hypothetical compounding example that assumes biweekly salary deferrals (for 30 years) at a 6% annual effective rate of return. It illustrates the principle of time and compounding. This chart is for illustrative purposes only and is not intended to represent the performance of any specific investment. Actual returns will vary and principal value will fluctuate. Taxes are due when money is withdrawn.

Your pension and Social Security can take you pretty far on your journey to retirement. But an employer sponsored savings plan, like the WRS 457 plan, can help make the picture complete.

Join your fellow co-workers in becoming a member of the WRS 457 Deferred Compensation Plan. If you are already participating, use the Retirement Goal Setting Worksheet at retirement.wyo.gov to make sure you are on a good path. For more information visit retirement.wyo.gov.

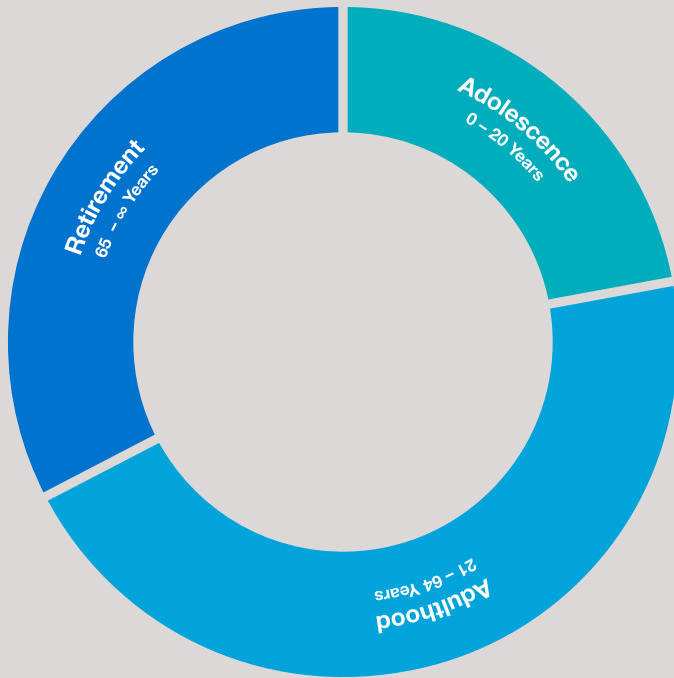


How long are you going to live in retirement?

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Imagine that your retired life lasts as long as your working life. It could happen, and saving a little more now will make a big difference then.

Make sure you will have enough money to maintain your lifestyle—check your savings contributions today. For more information plan to attend WRS' education seminars, *Retirement Strategies* or *Managing Retirement Income*. The schedule is at retirement.wyo.gov, under News & Information.



Because a target date fund contains a diversified mix of investments, it is an easy way to help make sure you are on a good path for retirement.

A target date fund works by automatically adjusting your investments so that your portfolio matches your age and keeps you on target for your retirement.

Many people are now using target date funds to help make sure they are on a good path for retirement. Check the investments in your plan today to see if a target date fund is a good option for you. Check out specific fund information at retirement.wyo.gov. If you prefer to select your own investments, review Help for “Mix-Your-Own” Investors.

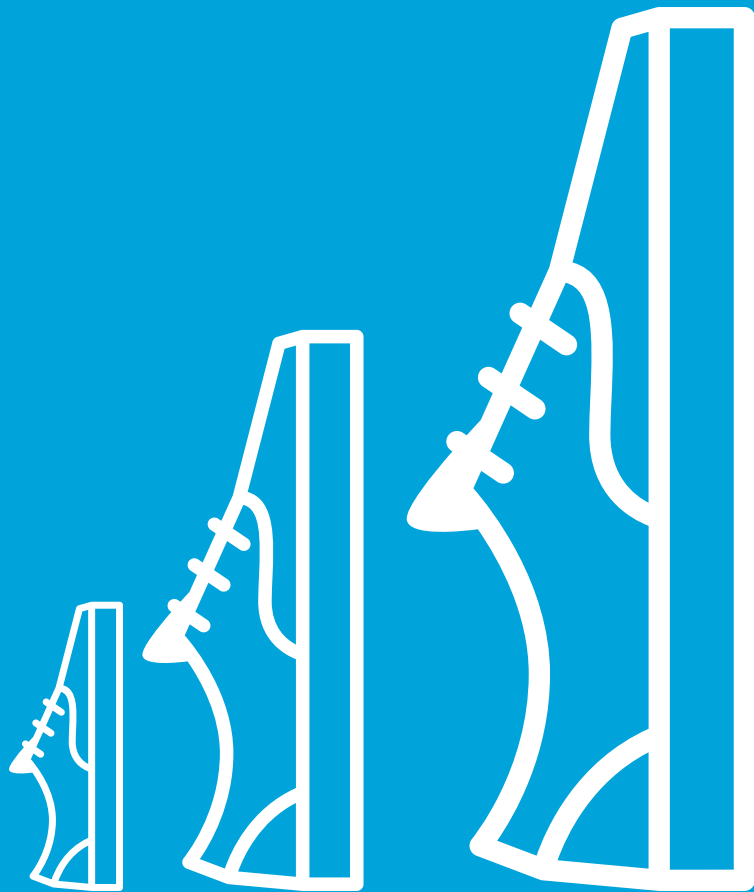


Retirement Journey Field Note #8
**One Small Step
Today...**

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...goes a long way for your financial future. Make sure the amount you're saving keeps up with you during your working years.

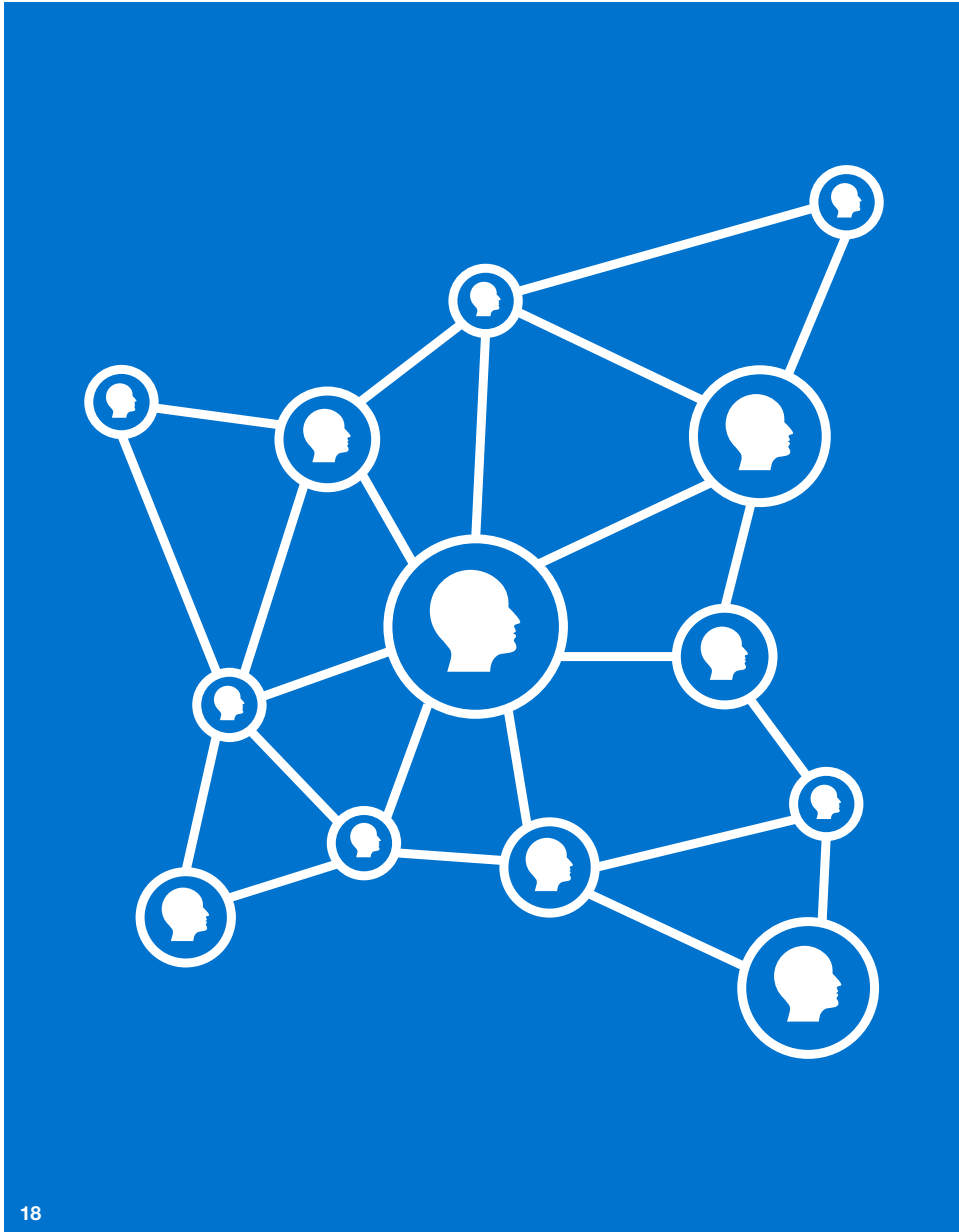
Experts recommend contributing at least 10% of your current income to your future retirement. To increase your contribution complete a contribution election form at retirement.wyo.gov under Deferred Compensation, Forms. State employees can increase online by logging into their 457 accounts. If you are not able to save more today, make a budget or a plan to start when you can. To learn more about budgeting, watch WRS' video *Live Smart, Save Smart* at retirement.wyo.gov under News & Information, Educational Seminars & Resources.



The knowledge you gain and the actions you take along your retirement savings journey are opportunities to share what you know with the people you care about.

So start a conversation today by asking someone what they want their future to be.

Save and share your Whole Story materials with friends and family.



The Easy Way to Save More

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Auto-escalation helps make sure the amount you're saving keeps up with you during your working years.

Auto-escalation automatically increases your savings rate to help make sure you're saving enough for when you stop working.

Auto-escalation makes it easy to save more. Create a scheduled event to increase payroll contributions by completing and future dating a contribution election form, found at retirement.wyo.gov under Deferred Compensation, Forms. State employees can do this when logged into online 457 accounts.



When you leave your employer, you have a great option for your savings. You can leave your money right where it is and continue to enjoy the great benefits of the plan.

If you have a new employer, you can roll it over into their plan.

But whatever you do, don't jeopardize your financial future by taking your money out of your plan and spending it before retirement.

For more information review "Decisions When Leaving a WRS Employer" at retirement.wyo.gov under Deferred Compensation, Information.



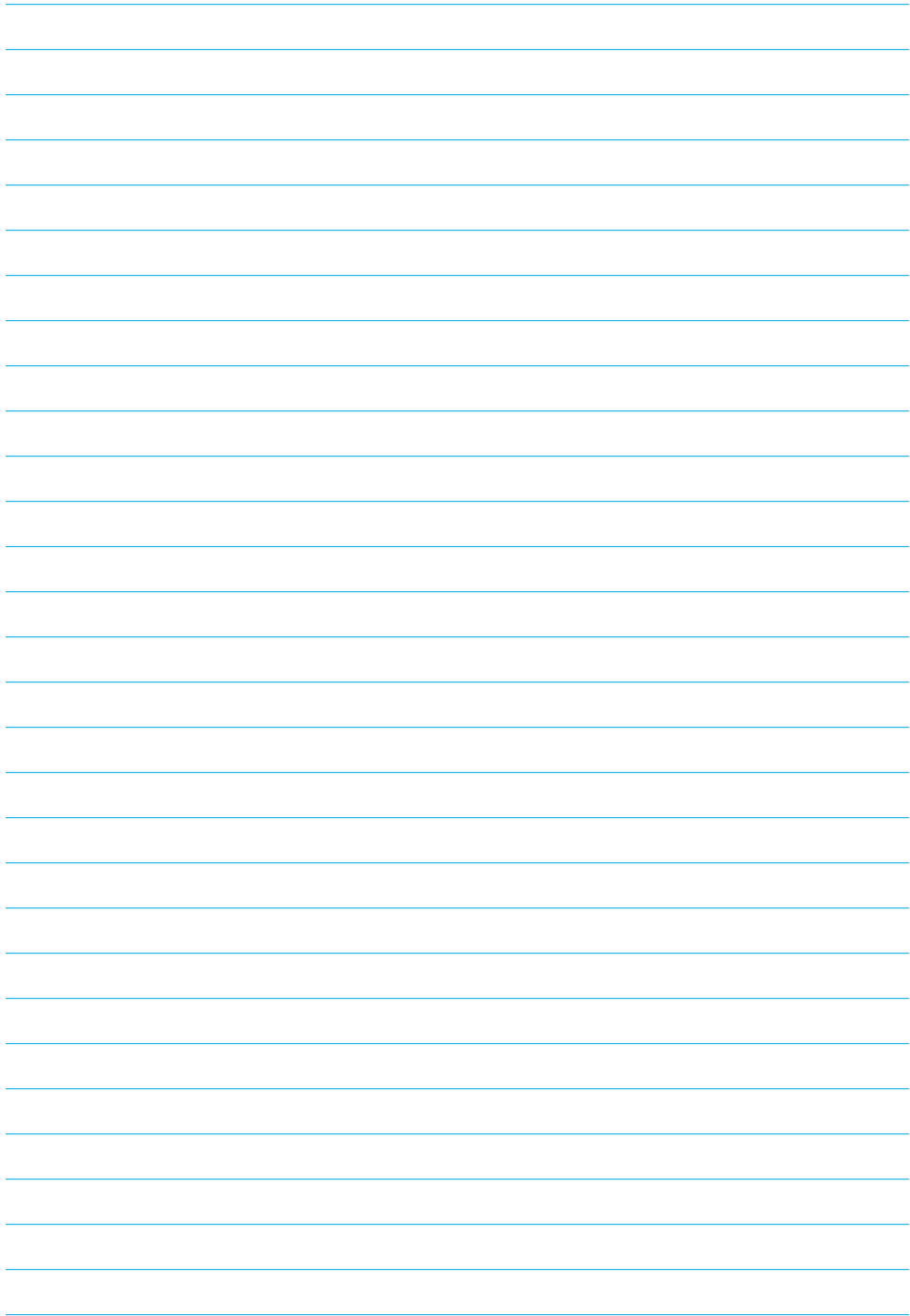
Cloudy with a Chance of Rain

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One of the best ways to protect your retirement savings is to set aside some money in a savings account in case of an emergency—that way you won't have to jeopardize your nest egg.

Start holding back a portion of every paycheck into a savings account. That way when an emergency comes up you will be better prepared. To learn more about budgeting, watch WRS' video *Live Smart, Save Smart* at retirement.wyo.gov under News & Information, Educational Seminars & Resources.





NATIONAL
RETIREMENT
SECURITY WEEK

