# Report as of December 31, 2023

NEA Member Benefits is pleased to provide you with the following NEA Retirement Monitor Status Report. We provide this report to help you more easily review the performance of the underlying investment options available through the NEA Retirement Program. The information in this report is not intended as investment advice.

NEA Member Benefits established performance criteria to provide an objective means of evaluating the NEA Retirement Program investment options.

One particular criterion is that if the performance of an underlying investment option, over a three-year period, falls below the mid-point ranking when compared to all of the other options in its asset category for three consecutive months, it is placed on monitor status. The investment option remains on monitor status until its three-year performance returns to the upper half of its asset category for three consecutive months.

For example, if a particular option with a strong performance record drops its three-year performance ranking to 51 or higher, out of a total of 100 options in an asset category for three monthly reporting periods, the option would be placed on "monitor status" and remain there until its three-year performance ranking reached 50 or better for at least three monthly reporting periods in a row.

There are investment options available within the NEA Retirement Program which do not have three years of performance information, and therefore do not meet our evaluation criterion. Investment options with less than three years of performance history are listed separately in this report as a way to provide additional information only and should not be considered investment advice.

The fact that an investment option is on monitor status is not necessarily an indication you should make adjustments to your account. Your investment time horizon, risk tolerance and overall investment objectives and goals should be taken into consideration, along with the long-term performance of an investment option.

## **Funds on Monitor Status**

Data on the ranking of NEA Retirement investment options within their asset categories is derived from Morningstar Principia Reporting Service, as of December 31, 2023.

The NEA Retirement Program investment options on monitor status as of the date of this report are shown below by product:

## VARIABLE ANNUITY ORIGINAL

NWD NEA VB-American Century VP Balanced I - US VA Sub Moderate Allocation NWD NEA VB-BNY Mellon Sustainable US Eq Port Initl - US VA Sub Large Blend NWD NEA VB-BNY Mellon VIF Oppc Sm Cap Port Initl - US VA Sub Small Blend NWD NEA VB-BNY Mellon VIF Quality Bond Port Initl - US VA Sub Intermediate Core Bond NWD NEA VB-Fidelity VIP Equity-Income Initial - US VA Sub Large Value NWD NEA VB-Fidelity VIP High Income Initial - US VA Sub High Yield Bond NWD NEA VB-Guggenheim Var Ser D (World Eq Inc) - US VA Sub Global Large-Stock Value NWD NEA VB-Guggenheim Var Ser N (Mgd Asst Allc ) - US VA Sub Moderate Allocation NWD NEA VB-Invesco VI American Franchise I - US VA Sub Large Growth NWD NEA VB-Invesco VI Global Real Estate I - US VA Sub Global Real Estate NWD NEA VB-Invesco VI Health Care I - US VA Sub Health NWD NEA VB-Invesco VI International Growth I - US VA Sub Foreign Large Growth NWD NEA VB-NVIT Government Bond I - US VA Sub Intermediate Government NWD NEA VB-NVIT Multi-Manager Large Cap Growth I - US VA Sub Large Growth NWD NEA VB-NVIT Multi-Manager Mid Cap Value II - US VA Sub Mid-Cap Value NWD NEA VB-Neuberger Berman NVIT Multi Cap Opp I - US VA Sub Large Blend

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NWD NEA VB-Neuberger Berman NVIT Socially Rspnb I - US VA Sub Large Blend NWD NEA VB-PIMCO VIT Total Return Admin - US VA Sub Intermediate Core-Plus Bond

#### **VARIABLE ANNUITY FUTURE**

NWD NEA VBF-American Century NVIT Multi Cap Val I - US VA Sub Large Value NWD NEA VBF-American Century VP International I - US VA Sub Foreign Large Growth NWD NEA VBF-Amundi Multi Sector Bond I - US VA Sub Multisector Bond NWD NEA VBF-BNY Mellon Sustainable US Eq Port Initl - US VA Sub Large Blend NWD NEA VBF-Federated Quality Bond II Primary - US VA Sub Corporate Bond NWD NEA VBF-Fidelity VIP Growth Opportunities Svc - US VA Sub Large Growth NWD NEA VBF-Fidelity VIP High Income Service - US VA Sub High Yield Bond NWD NEA VBF-Guggenheim Var Ser D (World Eq Inc) - US VA Sub Global Large-Stock Value NWD NEA VBF-Guggenheim Var Ser N (Mgd Asst Allc ) - US VA Sub Moderate Allocation NWD NEA VBF-Invesco VI Global Real Estate I - US VA Sub Global Real Estate NWD NEA VBF-Invesco VI International Growth I - US VA Sub Foreign Large Growth NWD NEA VBF-Janus Henderson VIT Forty Svc - US VA Sub Large Growth NWD NEA VBF-Morgan Stanley VIF Emerging Mkts Dbt I - US VA Sub Emerging Markets Bond NWD NEA VBF-Morgan Stanley VIF Global Strategist I - US VA Sub Tactical Allocation NWD NEA VBF-NVIT Core Bond I - US VA Sub Intermediate Core Bond NWD NEA VBF-NVIT Government Bond I - US VA Sub Intermediate Government NWD NEA VBF-NVIT Investor Destinations Moderate II - US VA Sub Moderate Allocation NWD NEA VBF-NVIT Multi-Manager Large Cap Growth I - US VA Sub Large Growth NWD NEA VBF-NVIT Multi-Manager Mid Cap Value II - US VA Sub Mid-Cap Value NWD NEA VBF-Neuberger Berman NVIT Multi Cap Opp I - US VA Sub Large Blend NWD NEA VBF-Neuberger Berman NVIT Socially Rspnb I - US VA Sub Large Blend NWD NEA VBF-Rational Insider Buying VA - US VA Sub Large Growth NWD NEA VBF-VanEck VIP Emerging Markets Initial - US VA Sub Diversified Emerging Mkts

#### VARIABLE ANNUITY SELECT

NWD NEA VBS-American Century NVIT Multi Cap Val I - US VA Sub Large Value NWD NEA VBS-American Century VP International I - US VA Sub Foreign Large Growth NWD NEA VBS-BNY Mellon Sustainable US Eq Port Initl - US VA Sub Large Blend NWD NEA VBS-Federated Quality Bond II Primary - US VA Sub Corporate Bond NWD NEA VBS-Fidelity VIP Equity-Income Service - US VA Sub Large Value NWD NEA VBS-Fidelity VIP Growth Opportunities Svc - US VA Sub Large Growth NWD NEA VBS-Fidelity VIP High Income Service - US VA Sub High Yield Bond NWD NEA VBS-Guggenheim Var Ser D (World Eq Inc) - US VA Sub Global Large-Stock Value NWD NEA VBS-Guggenheim Var Ser N (Mgd Asst Allc ) - US VA Sub Moderate Allocation NWD NEA VBS-Invesco Oppenheimer VI Main Street I - US VA Sub Large Blend NWD NEA VBS-Invesco VI Global Real Estate I - US VA Sub Global Real Estate NWD NEA VBS-Invesco VI International Growth I - US VA Sub Foreign Large Growth NWD NEA VBS-Janus Henderson VIT Forty Svc - US VA Sub Large Growth NWD NEA VBS-Morgan Stanley VIF Emerging Mkts Dbt I - US VA Sub Emerging Markets Bond NWD NEA VBS-Morgan Stanley VIF Global Strategist I - US VA Sub Tactical Allocation NWD NEA VBS-NVIT Core Bond I - US VA Sub Intermediate Core Bond

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NWD NEA VBS-NVIT Government Bond I - US VA Sub Intermediate Government
NWD NEA VBS-NVIT Investor Destinations Moderate II - US VA Sub Moderate Allocation
NWD NEA VBS-NVIT Multi Sector Bond I - US VA Sub Multisector Bond
NWD NEA VBS-NVIT Multi-Manager Large Cap Growth I - US VA Sub Large Growth
NWD NEA VBS-NVIT Multi-Manager Mid Cap Value II - US VA Sub Mid-Cap Value
NWD NEA VBS-Neuberger Berman NVIT Multi Cap Opp I - US VA Sub Large Blend
NWD NEA VBS-Neuberger Berman NVIT Socially Rspnb I - US VA Sub Large Blend
NWD NEA VBS-PIMCO VIT Total Return Adv - US VA Sub Intermediate Core-Plus Bond
NWD NEA VBS-VanEck VIP Emerging Markets Initial - US VA Sub Diversified Emerging Mkts

#### **MUTUAL FUND DIRECTINVEST**

American Century Equity Growth Inv - US Fund Large Blend Invesco Small Cap Growth A - US Fund Small Growth Janus Henderson Mid Cap Value T - US Fund Mid-Cap Value PIMCO Total Return Admin - US Fund Intermediate Core-Plus Bond T. Rowe Price Retirement 2040 Advisor - US Fund Target-Date 2040 T. Rowe Price Retirement 2050 Advisor - US Fund Target-Date 2050 T. Rowe Price Retirement 2060 Advisor - US Fund Target-Date 2050 Vanguard Interm-Term Bond Index Adm - US Fund Intermediate Core Bond Vanguard Mid Cap Index Admiral - US Fund Mid-Cap Blend Vanguard Real Estate Index Admiral - US Fund Real Estate Vanguard Small Cap Index Adm - US Fund Small Blend Vanguard Total Intl Stock Index Admiral - US Fund Foreign Large Blend Vanguard Total Stock Mkt Idx Adm - US Fund Large Blend

#### **MUTUAL FUND TSA**

American Century Equity Income A - US Fund Large Value American Century Heritage A - US Fund Mid-Cap Growth American Century International Gr A - US Fund Foreign Large Growth American Century Strat Allc: Agrsv A - US Fund Moderately Aggressive Allocation American Century Strat Allc: Mod A - US Fund Moderate Allocation Ariel Fund Investor - US Fund Mid-Cap Value BlackRock Equity Dividend Inv A - US Fund Large Value BlackRock Global Allocation Inv A - US Fund Global Allocation Calamos Growth A - US Fund Large Growth Fidelity Advisor Dividend Growth M - US Fund Large Value Fidelity Advisor Real Estate M - US Fund Real Estate Franklin Growth Opportunities A - US Fund Large Growth Goldman Sachs Emerging Markets Eq Svc - US Fund Diversified Emerging Mkts Goldman Sachs Government Income Svc - US Fund Intermediate Government Guggenheim Managed Futures Strategy P - US Fund Systematic Trend Guggenheim Mid Cap Value A - US Fund Mid-Cap Value Guggenheim Small Cap Value A - US Fund Small Value Guggenheim StylePlus - Large Core A - US Fund Large Blend Guggenheim World Equity Income A - US Fund Global Large-Stock Value

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Invesco American Franchise A - US Fund Large Growth Invesco Gold & Precious Metals A - US Fund Equity Precious Metals Invesco Mid Cap Core Equity A - US Fund Mid-Cap Blend Invesco Mid Cap Growth A - US Fund Mid-Cap Growth Invesco Small Cap Growth A - US Fund Small Growth Invesco Technology A - US Fund Technology Ivy Small Cap Growth A - US Fund Small Growth Janus Henderson Mid Cap Value S - US Fund Mid-Cap Value Janus Henderson Triton S - US Fund Small Growth Janus Henderson US Managed Volatility S - US Fund Large Blend Neuberger Berman Core Bond A - US Fund Intermediate Core Bond Neuberger Berman Socially Rspns Tr - US Fund Large Blend Oppenheimer Developing Markets A - US Fund Diversified Emerging Mkts Oppenheimer Discovery A - US Fund Small Growth PIMCO Commodity Real Ret Strat A - US Fund Commodities Broad Basket PIMCO High Yield A - US Fund High Yield Bond PIMCO Low Duration R - US Fund Short-Term Bond **PIMCO Real Return R** - US Fund Inflation-Protected Bond PIMCO StocksPLUS Small A - US Fund Small Blend PIMCO Total Return R - US Fund Intermediate Core-Plus Bond Prudential Jennison 20/20 Focus A - US Fund Large Growth T. Rowe Price Growth Stock R - US Fund Large Growth T. Rowe Price Retirement 2040 R - US Fund Target-Date 2040 T. Rowe Price Retirement 2045 R - US Fund Target-Date 2045 T. Rowe Price Retirement 2050 R - US Fund Target-Date 2050 T. Rowe Price Retirement 2055 R - US Fund Target-Date 2055 Victory RS Science and Technology A - US Fund Technology Virtus Ceredex Mid-Cap Value Equity A - US Fund Mid-Cap Value Wells Fargo Growth A - US Fund Large Growth Wells Fargo Small Cap Value A - US Fund Small Blend

#### VARIABLE ANNUITY TSA

SBL NEAVB B-AMG Managers Fairpointe Mid Cap N - US VA Sub Mid-Cap Value
SBL NEAVB B-American Century Equity Income A - US VA Sub Large Value
SBL NEAVB B-American Century International Gr A - US VA Sub Foreign Large Growth
SBL NEAVB B-Ariel Fund Investor - US VA Sub Mid-Cap Value
SBL NEAVB B-BNY Mellon Opportunistic Midcap Value A - US VA Sub Mid-Cap Blend
SBL NEAVB B-Calamos Growth A - US VA Sub Large Growth
SBL NEAVB B-Fidelity Advisor Dividend Growth M - US VA Sub Large Value
SBL NEAVB B-Fidelity Advisor Intl Capital App M - US VA Sub Foreign Large Growth
SBL NEAVB B-Fidelity Advisor Real Estate M - US VA Sub Real Estate
SBL NEAVB B-Goldman Sachs Emerging Markets Eq Svc - US VA Sub Diversified Emerging Mkts
SBL NEAVB B-Gulggenheim Alpha Opportunity A - US VA Sub Large Blend

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SBL NEAVB B-Guggenheim World Equity Income A - US VA Sub Global Large-Stock Value
SBL NEAVB B-Invesco American Franchise A - US VA Sub Large Growth
SBL NEAVB B-Invesco Mid Cap Growth A - US VA Sub Mid-Cap Growth
SBL NEAVB B-Invesco Small Cap Growth A - US VA Sub Small Growth
SBL NEAVB B-Invesco Technology A - US VA Sub Technology
SBL NEAVB B-PIMCO High Yield A - US VA Sub High Yield Bond
SBL NEAVB B-Prudential Jennison 20/20 Focus A - US VA Sub Large Growth
SBL NEAVB B-T. Rowe Price Growth Stock R - US VA Sub Large Growth
SBL NEAVB B-Victory RS Science and Technology A - US VA Sub Large Blend
SBL NEAVB B-Wells Fargo Large Cap Core A - US VA Sub Large Growth
SBL NEAVB B-Wells Fargo Small Cap Value A - US VA Sub Large Growth
SBL NEAVB B-Wells Fargo Small Cap Value A - US VA Sub Large Growth
SBL NEAVB B-Wells Fargo Small Cap Value A - US VA Sub Large Growth
SBL NEAVB B-Wells Fargo Small Cap Value A - US VA Sub Large Growth
SBL NEAVB B-Wells Fargo Small Cap Value A - US VA Sub Large Growth
SBL NEAVB C-Invesco American Franchise A - US VA Sub Large Growth
SBL NEAVB L-Invesco American Franchise A - US VA Sub Large Growth

# **Evaluation Criteria**

To assure that the NEA Retirement Programs offer superior quality and value, NEA Member Benefits (NEA MB) developed criteria to evaluate and monitor the performance of existing and new investment options.

The criteria are specifically designed to accomplish the following:

To support recommendations for new investment options for the NEA Retirement Program;

To review, on an ongoing basis, the performance of NEA Retirement Program investment options, as well as investment options of other nationally available variable annuity and mutual fund products that are targeted to the education marketplace; and

To provide a basis for identifying and improving the performance of underperforming NEA Retirement Program investment options and, if necessary, closing these investment options to new contributions.

## Criteria

The criteria for evaluating and recommending new investment options are:

- INVESTMENT OPTION PERFORMANCE
- RANGE OF OPTIONS
- FINANCIAL INDUSTRY LEADER

## **Investment Options Performance**

The performance of new and existing investment options will be evaluated and tracked monthly using Morningstar Principia.

## **Performance Guidelines**

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# Background

The following information is intended to be helpful in understanding how the Evaluation Criteria and Performance Guidelines were developed and how they will be used to identify and measure the performance of new and existing investment options. There are two types of variable annuity investment options. One is an option that has been issued by an insurance company for its own variable annuity product. In almost all instances, this type of option is proprietary to the issuing insurance company, and it is usually managed by the insurance company.

The second type of investment option is a mutual fund that has been adapted to become a variable annuity separate account. As a variable annuity investment option, the "cloned option" may retain the same investment objective or be patterned after the publicly available mutual fund.

Once a mutual fund is adapted as a variable annuity separate account, it can become part of any variable annuity product, assuming the investment company that manages the mutual fund agrees. In other words, one variable annuity investment option might be available through several annuity products. When the investment option is available through several annuity products, the performance record of the option in a particular annuity product will be affected by the fees and expenses of that annuity product and by the timing of when the investment option was included in that annuity product. Another factor impacting performance is the amount of assets under management in the separate account.

For more complete information about the NEA Valuebuilder Variable Annuity TSA, including charges and expenses, you may obtain a prospectus from Security Distributors Inc., One Security Benefit Place, Topeka, Kansas, 66636.

Before investing, please understand that the NEA Valuebuilder Variable Annuity TSA is not insured by the Federal Government or any governmental agency and that investment within this product involves investment risk, including the possible loss of principal.

Past performance does not predict or guarantee how funds will perform in the future. The investment returns and principal value of variable annuities fluctuate with changing market conditions. An investment, when withdrawn, may be worth more or less than its original cost.

The NEA Valuebuilder Variable Annuity TSA is distributed by Security Distributors, Inc. and is issued by Security Benefit Life Insurance Company. Security Distributors, Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Security Benefit Life Insurance Company which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Security Benefit Corporation ("Security Benefit").

# The Internal Revenue Code prohibits certain distributions attributable to salary reduction contributions before an individual reaches 59<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>, separates from service, dies or becomes disabled, or experiences a financial hardship as defined by the code.

The underlying investment options described in this report are only available as investment options in variable annuity contracts issued by life insurance companies. They are NOT offered or made available to the general public directly.

You should carefully consider the investment objectives, risks, and charges and expenses of the mutual funds and variable annuities available under the NEA Retirement Program before investing. You may obtain a prospectus that contains this and other information about the mutual funds and variable annuities by calling our National Service Center at 1-800-NEA-VALU (632-8258). You should read the prospectus carefully before investing. Investing in variable annuities and mutual funds involves risk and there is no guarantee of investment results.

The NEA Retirement Program provides investment products (the "NEA Retirement products") in connection with retirement plans sponsored by school districts and other employers of NEA members and individual retirement accounts

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