

The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) is the largest independent regulator for all securities firms doing business in the United States. FINRA's mission is to protect America's investors by making sure the securities industry operates fairly and honestly. [FINRA has recently come out with pertinent questions that investors should ask themselves as they look for possibly higher yields and returns from their investments.](#)

Questions to Ask Before Making or Changing Investments

- Does the higher return from the investment come with increased risk?
- Do you understand how the investment operates?
- What are the costs and fees associated with the new investment?

TD Ameritrade believes our clients should consider these questions, among others, before making an investment decision or when thinking about changing from one investment to another.

It is highly probable that the potential for increased investment returns, including higher current yield, will entail increasing investment risks. These risks could be related to higher degrees of principal volatility, and loss of principal, and could cause your remaining capital to earn less in the future.

It is important that you have an understanding of how any new investment is managed, the strategies it uses, and the securities it will hold, before you invest. This may give you a better understanding of possible future risks while you seek higher investment returns. Costs and fees directly affect your investment returns. It is best to educate yourself as to all costs and fees of your investments. Funds publish several different types of disclosure statements which are informative. They include the summary prospectus, the standard prospectus, and the Statement of Additional Information. Each builds on the previous one and adds details about investment risk, fund operations, and all fees and expenses. They are provided without cost, and you should read them before investing.

[Read the FINRA article.](#)