



There's never been a better time for a 529 plan

August 11, 2020

Even during a pandemic, the cost of college keeps rising. And so does investor anxiety. 529 plans offer flexibility and benefits that can provide some relief.

Many investors don't realize that 529 plan assets can be used to pay for much more than books and tuition. In fact, distributions can be used to cover a long list of qualified education expenses at eligible institutions.

The recently passed Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement (SECURE) Act expanded qualified expenses to include registered apprenticeship programs and repayment of college debt. And since account owners have full control over 529 plan assets, they can even be the beneficiary of their own account — a huge benefit to anyone looking to go back to school themselves right now to advance their skills for the new work environment.

Perhaps the best kept secret of 529 plans is that money saved can be used to purchase computers and other equipment or to pay for internet access. This will be especially important if remote learning continues in states across the country.

See the full list of eligible expenses and qualified institutions
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No matter what's going on in the world, the cost of college keeps rising. And as experts debate what college will look like in the future — classes on campus, remote learning, or a mix of both — the benefits of having a 529 plan have never been so meaningful.

- 3 little-known advantages of having a 529 plan today**
1. Not only can 529 plan assets be used to pay for tuition and books, they can also pay for computers, internet access and other equipment. This will be especially important if remote learning continues.
 2. The recently passed Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement (SECURE) Act expanded qualified expenses to include registered apprenticeship programs and repayment of college debt.
 3. Account owners have full control over 529 plan assets and can even be the beneficiary of their own account — a huge benefit to anyone looking to go back to school themselves right now to advance their skills for the new work environment.

Everything you can pay for with 529 plan assets — and where
Distributions from a 529 plan can be used to cover a long list of qualified education expenses at qualified institutions.

Qualified expenses	Types of eligible institutions
<p>Kindergarten through 12th grade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuition up to \$10,000 per year per student* <p>Post-secondary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuition and fees • Books, supplies and equipment required for enrollment or attendance • Room and board: on- or off-campus for students who are at least half-time • Computer, peripheral equipment, software and internet access if used primarily by the beneficiary • Special needs services as required by beneficiaries in connection with enrollment or attendance • Fees, books, supplies and equipment required for participation in a registered apprenticeship program* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-state and out-of-state colleges • Public and private schools • Vocational schools • Technical and trade schools • International higher education institutions • Any public, private or religious elementary or secondary school • Registered apprenticeship program* • Payment of principal interest on any qualified education loan up to a \$10,000 lifetime limit for the designated beneficiary and/or sibling of the beneficiary

Talk with your financial advisor about how a Future Scholar 529 Plan can help you cover your expenses, now and in the future.

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Bottom line

As experts debate what college will look like in the future — classes on campus, remote learning or a mix of both — the benefits of having a 529 plan have never been more meaningful.

To find out more, call [800.426.3750](tel:800.426.3750)
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