

A Smooth Start to the Fall Semester

Don't stress when college bills start to arrive. CollegeCounts Advisor makes paying for college expenses a breeze. Here are a few things to remember to ensure a smooth process:

- ▶ Withdrawals can be requested online by logging into your account at CollegeCounts529advisor.com and following the simple steps.

It's a fast, easy and secure way to take care of college expenses.

- ▶ Withdrawals can be paid to the account owner, the beneficiary, or directly to the college – it's up to you.
- ▶ Funds can be used for qualified expenses at a variety of schools nationwide.¹ For additional information on what is considered a qualified expense and if your school qualifies, visit: CollegeCounts529advisor.com/plan-benefits/use-of-funds.
- ▶ Stay one step ahead – request your withdrawal 7-10 days prior to the due date to allow time for the college to receive and properly credit your payment.



Good Things Can Take Time—So Can Investing: Stay Focused

When investing, the only certainty is that markets will experience unpredictability. Staying the course can be difficult, especially during challenging news and economic cycles, but history has shown us that the long-term trends of markets have been positive. Investing is a journey. Stay focused on long-term goals and the things you can control.

Keep investing in your loved one's future education even during market uncertainty. Consider setting up an automatic investment plan to help stay on track and maintain consistent contributions.

CollegeCounts Advisor offers a number of quality fund families and solid investment options that can give you the confidence to stay on track regardless of market conditions.

We recommend speaking with your financial advisor for personalized guidance in creating and maintaining your financial plan.



CollegeCounts Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to the 2025 CollegeCounts Scholarship recipients! This year, we awarded scholarships worth over \$1 million to 329 students entering college in August 2025. CollegeCounts is proud to recognize these incredible students for their dedication to learning and we can't wait to see what they accomplish next!

Over the years, CollegeCounts has awarded over \$12 million to more than 3,500 Alabama students, and we're excited to keep investing in the success of future generations.

Congratulations to the Class of 2025! Wishing you success and excitement as you take on college and everything that's ahead.



The CollegeCounts 529 Fund Advisor Plan is a qualified tuition program under Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code that is offered by the State of Alabama and administered by the Board of Trustees of the ACES Trust Fund (the "Trust" and plan issuer). Union Bank and Trust Company serves as Program Manager and Northern Trust Securities, Inc., acts as Distributor. Union Bank and Trust Company is registered as a municipal advisor with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB). Except for any investments made by a Participant in the Bank Savings 529 Portfolio up to the limit provided by Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC") insurance, neither the principal contributed to an Account, nor earnings thereon, are guaranteed or insured by the FDIC, the State of Alabama, the State of Alabama Treasurer, the Board, the Trust, the Program, Union Bank and Trust Company, Northern Trust Securities, Inc., or any other entity. Investment returns are not guaranteed and you could lose money by investing in the Plan.

An investor should consider the investment objectives, risks, and charges and expenses associated with municipal fund securities before investing. This, and other important information, is contained in the fund prospectuses and the CollegeCounts 529 Fund Advisor Plan Program Disclosure Statement (issuer's official statement), which can be obtained from a financial professional and on CollegeCounts529advisor.com and should be read carefully before investing. You can lose money by investing in a portfolio. Each of the portfolios involves investment risks, which are described in the Program Disclosure Statement.

An investor should consider, before investing, whether the investor's or designated beneficiary's home state offers any state tax or other benefits such as financial aid, scholarship funds, and protection from creditors that are only available for investments in such state's 529 plan. Investors should consult a tax advisor.

¹Withdrawals used to pay for qualified higher education expenses are free from federal and Alabama state income tax. Qualified higher education expenses include tuition, fees, books, supplies, and equipment required for enrollment or attendance; certain room and board expenses incurred by students who are enrolled at least half-time; the purchase of computer or peripheral equipment, computer software, or internet access and related services, if used primarily by the beneficiary during any of the years the beneficiary is enrolled at an eligible educational institution; certain expenses for special needs services needed by a special needs beneficiary; apprenticeship program expenses; payment of principal or interest on any qualified education loan of the Beneficiary or a sibling of the Beneficiary (up to an aggregate lifetime limit of \$10,000 per individual); and up to \$10,000 per year in K-12 Tuition Expenses. The earnings portion of a Nonqualified Withdrawal is subject to federal income tax and 10% federal penalty tax. In addition, Alabama provides in the event of a Nonqualified Withdrawal an amount that must be added back to the income of the contributing taxpayer. The amount to be added back will be the amount of the Nonqualified Withdrawal plus 10% of the amount withdrawn.

NOT FDIC INSURED* / NO BANK GUARANTEE / MAY LOSE VALUE
(*except the Bank Savings 529 Portfolio underlying investment)

**"The future belongs to those who believe
in the beauty of their dreams."**

— Eleanor Roosevelt

Alabama Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday

The Alabama Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday runs from **July 18–20, 2025** in participating municipalities throughout the state. It's the perfect time to grab essentials for school—whether it's a new laptop, clothing, supplies, or books. Such items purchased during the sales tax holiday are exempt from Alabama state sales tax (though local sales tax may still apply).

To see participating counties and municipalities, as well as rules and guidelines, visit the Alabama Department of Revenue's website at **Revenue.Alabama.gov** and search **"2025 school sales tax holiday"**.

Stay Connected

As you prepare for the back-to-school season, take a moment to review your contact information for your CollegeCounts Advisor account. Simply log into your account at **CollegeCounts529advisor.com** to review and update your address, phone number, and email address.

While you're there, consider signing up for E-Delivery to receive statements and important plan documents electronically!




CollegeCounts
ADVISOR-GUIDED 529 FUND