Alabama's 529 Advisor Fund Newsletter
2nd Quarter 2026

Pay for College with Confidence

Whether your student is heading to campus for the first time or returning for another year, it's an exciting and busy time. As you finalize course registration, move-in dates, and orientation schedules, it's also a great time to review how you can use your CollegeCounts Advisor account to cover qualified education expenses.[1]

To help things go smoothly, here are a few reminders to keep in mind when requesting withdrawals.

Know Which Expenses Qualify
Funds can be used for qualified expenses[1] at a variety of schools nationwide. For more details on eligible schools and qualified expenses, visit:
CollegeCounts529advisor.com/benefits/use-of-funds

Choose the Payment Method That Works for You
CollegeCounts Advisor offers flexible withdrawal options. Withdrawals can be paid to the account owner, the beneficiary or directly to the college.

Withdrawals can be conveniently requested by logging into your account at **CollegeCounts529advisor.com**. It's a simple and secure way to access your funds and pay for college expenses.

Time Your Withdrawals Carefully
Request your withdrawal at least 7-10 days prior to the due date to allow time for the college to receive and properly credit your payment, helping you avoid last-minute stress or potential delays.

Using your funds is an important step in putting your savings to work. With a little planning and attention to timing, you can stay on track. If you have questions along the way, contact your financial advisor for assistance.

A Fresh Look for Your College Savings Journey

You may have noticed that **CollegeCounts529advisor.com** has an updated look, including a refreshed logo!

While our logo and website may look new, our commitment to helping families save for college expenses remains the same. We are proud to continue supporting your college savings journey every step of the way.

Be sure to also explore the convenient, easy-to-use features available through our online portal designed to make managing your account a breeze.

If you haven't set up online access, it's easy to get started at **CollegeCounts529advisor.com**

Get Ready for School & Save During Alabama's Sales Tax Holiday!

Mark your calendars for the Alabama Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday which runs from July 17-19, 2026, in participating municipalities throughout the state.

Now is the perfect time to purchase certain school items like computers, clothes, and other school supplies. Items purchased during the sales tax holiday are exempt from Alabama state 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 "2026 school sales tax holiday".

> **"Your future is created by what you do today, not tomorrow."**
> — Robert Kiyosaki

CollegeCounts Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to the 2026 CollegeCounts Scholarship recipients! This year, we awarded scholarships worth over $1.1 million to 335 students entering college in August 2026. CollegeCounts is proud to recognize the hard work and dedication of these students, and we are excited to see where their journeys take them next!

Over the years, CollegeCounts has awarded over $13 million to more than 3,800 Alabama students, and we continue to support the achievements of tomorrow's leaders.

Congratulations to the Class of 2026! This milestone is just the beginning of all the great things ahead!

Test Your CollegeCounts Knowlege!

1. True or False: My beneficiary must attend an Alabama school.

☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

2. Which of these are considered qualified higher education expenses?[1]

A. Tuition & Fees
B. Computer
C. Room & Board
D. All of the Above + more!

Answers

1. Answer: False!

Many beneficiaries will attend Alabama schools; however, funds may be used at eligible two- and four-year colleges and universities, vocational or technical schools nationwide, and some foreign schools as well as for certain apprenticeship programs, K-12 expenses and postsecondary credentialing expenses.

2. Answer: D! All of the Above + more.

Your CollegeCounts account can be used for a wide range of qualified expenses[1] at eligible institutions, not just tuition and books.

[1] Withdrawals 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); up to $20,000 in K-12 Expenses; and Qualified Postsecondary Credentialing 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.