

COLLEGE SAVINGS FOR ALL GEORGIANS

the path to college starts here →



Path2College
529 Plan

Save for the future. Today.®
Offered by the State of Georgia

PATH2COLLEGE: A PLAN FOR EVERYONE

It's never too early to prepare your child or grandchild for a successful future. The Path2College 529 Plan is flexible, affordable and includes great tax advantages that help you save more of your hard earned money. Take a moment to explore how Path2College can help you reach your college savings goals.

Let's look at some things that may be on your mind...

You know you need to save for college, but there's plenty of time, right? Actually, the first few years of a child's life are the prime saving years. In fact, by the time your child is nine years old, half of your time to save for college has passed! The Path2College 529 Plan has age-based investment options that take into account your child's age and how long before they start college.

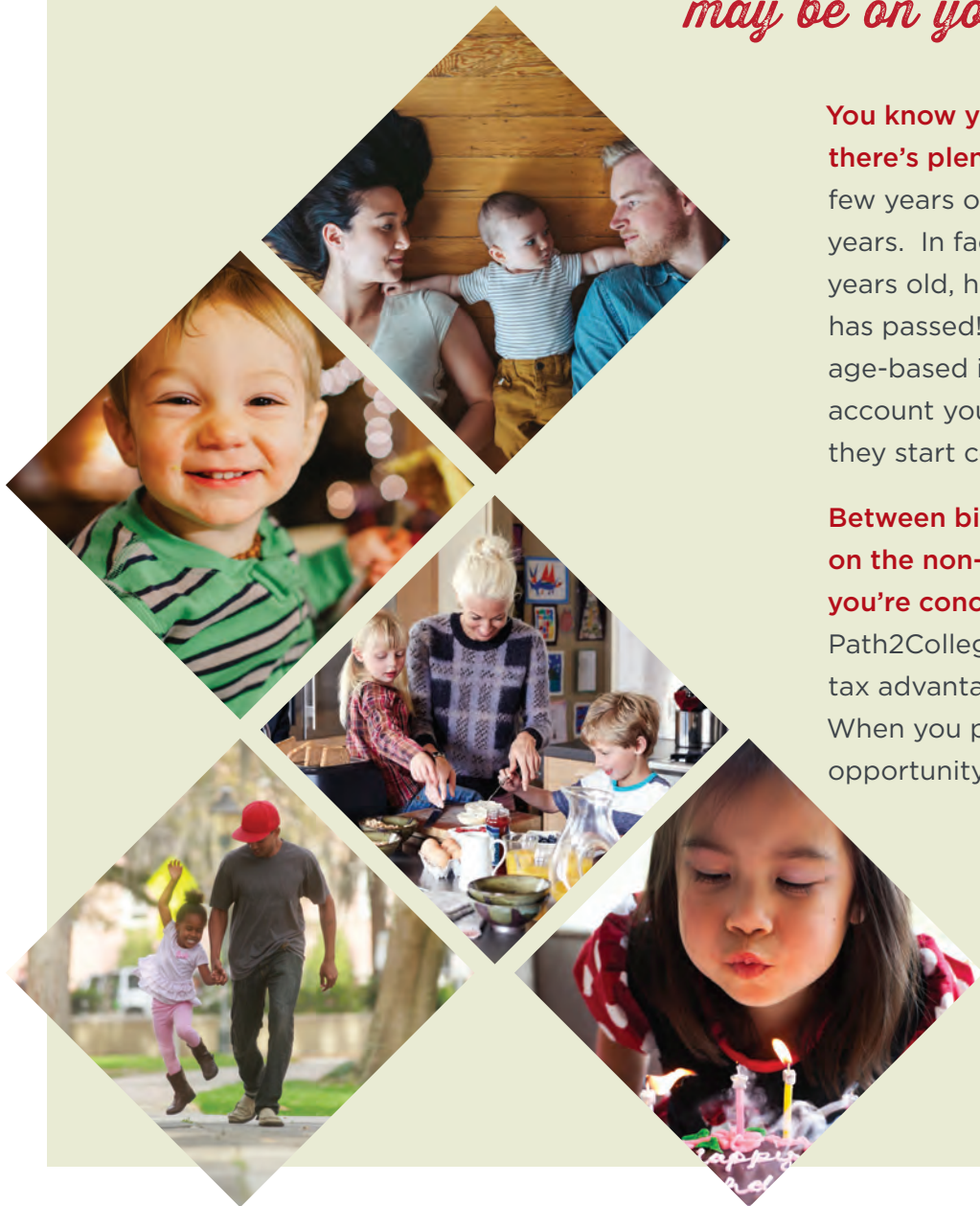
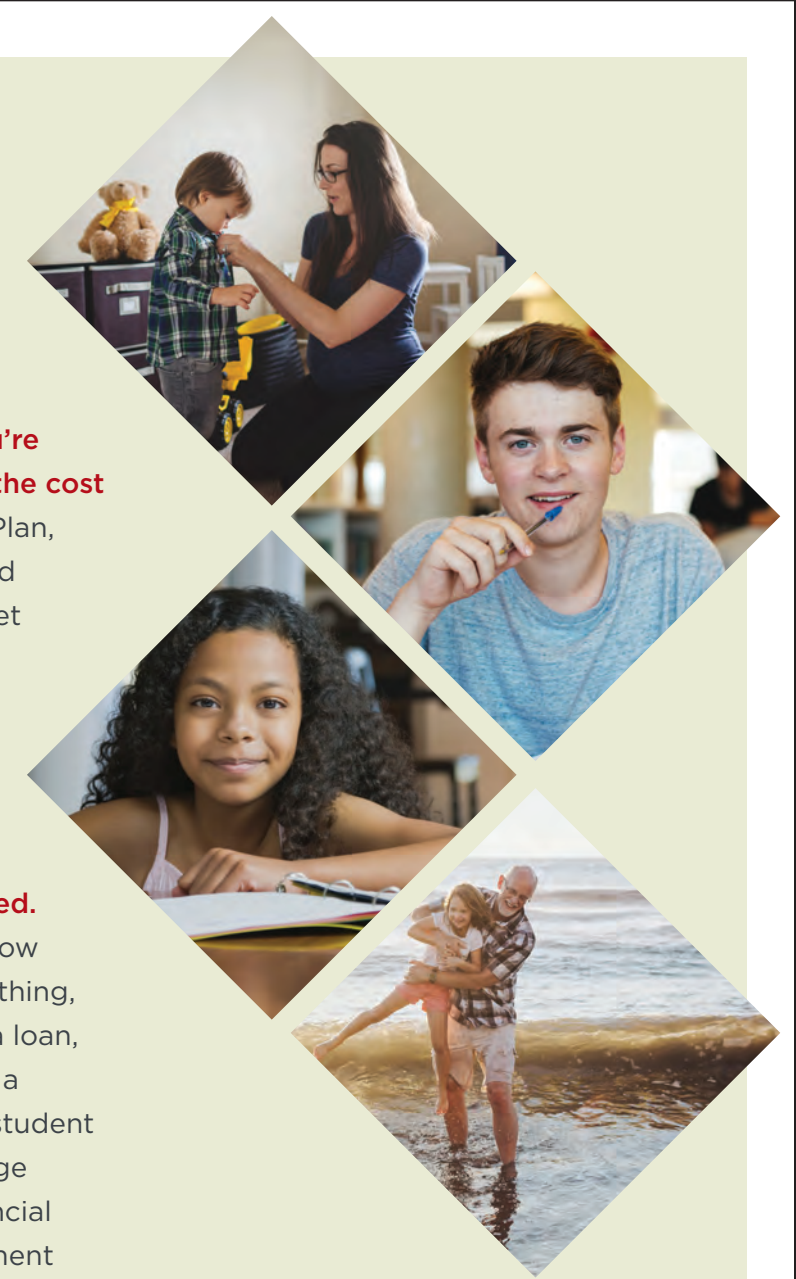
Between birthday money and cutting back on the non-essentials, you're saving...but you're concerned about saving enough. The Path2College 529 Plan offers federal and state tax advantages that help you maximize savings. When you pay fewer taxes, you have more opportunity for your contributions to grow.

You want the best for your kids but you're pretty worried about how you'll cover the cost of college. With the Path2College 529 Plan, you don't have to go it alone. Family and friends can help contribute and you'll get access to a variety of professionally managed investment options that make managing the account easy.

Your kids are smart and hardworking; between scholarships, loans and financial aid, you hope to have it covered. It's always better to save now than borrow later. Very few scholarships cover everything, and when you factor in the interest on a loan, you may end up paying a lot more with a loan-funded education. As long as the student isn't the account owner, the Path2College 529 Plan has a low impact on their financial aid eligibility making it a great complement to many scholarships, including Georgia's HOPE Scholarship.*

You want to make sure your grandchildren have the chance to get ahead in life and you're worried your children aren't saving enough. Did you know you can open your own Path2College account for your grandchildren and there are great estate planning and tax benefits in doing so? (Consult your tax advisor.) You control the account, including how the funds are used. And, if your grandchild doesn't use them all or go to school, the funds can be transferred to another grandchild or eligible family member tax-free. You can even use the funds for yourself!

* The treatment of investments in a 529 college savings plan varies by school. Any investments, including those in 529 accounts, may affect the student's eligibility to get financial aid based on need. You should check with the schools you are considering regarding this issue.



DID YOU KNOW?

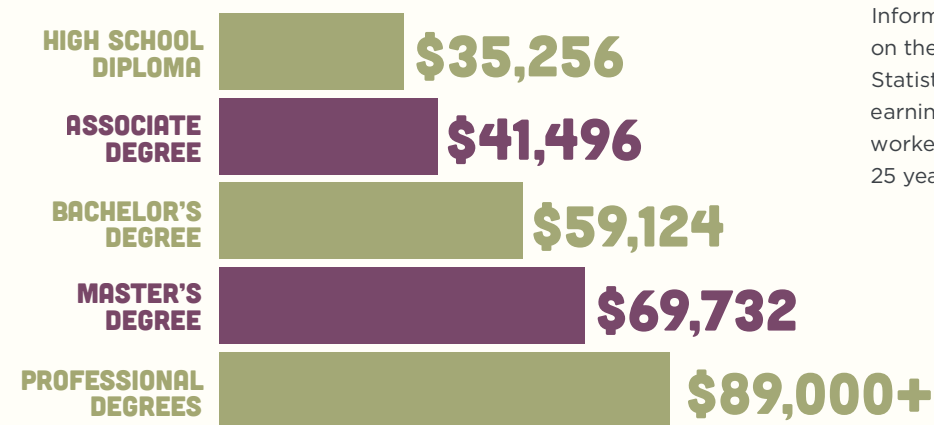
In the same way a 401(k) was designed to offer tax advantages to help you save for retirement, a 529 plan was created to help you save for a college education. The number 529 simply refers to the federal tax code section.



A COLLEGE EDUCATION OPENS DOORS

We all know that a higher education is an important ingredient for success. In fact, study after study concludes that college graduates earn more than their non-graduate peers by a large margin. That might not be a surprise, but did you know college graduates also live healthier, longer lives? One of the big reasons for this is that college opens doors. It enables graduates to explore new opportunities and achieve a higher level of career fulfillment.

College Graduates Earn More Per Year



Information is based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics 2015 median earnings for full-time workers at least 25 years old.*

HOW MUCH WILL COLLEGE COST?

If you've spent a few nights worrying about how to pay for college, you're not alone. The cost of college is a major concern for most families with good reason — it's increasing at a faster rate than inflation. Over the past 30 years, the average cost of in-state tuition has risen by 146% for private four-year institutions, 150% for two-year colleges, and 225% for public four-year schools**. **That is why it is important to begin saving now.** While many parents want to know how much they'll need to save for their child's education, getting an exact number can be difficult. There are lots of factors to consider including where the student will attend school and the type of institution. Use the information on the opposite page to help in your planning.

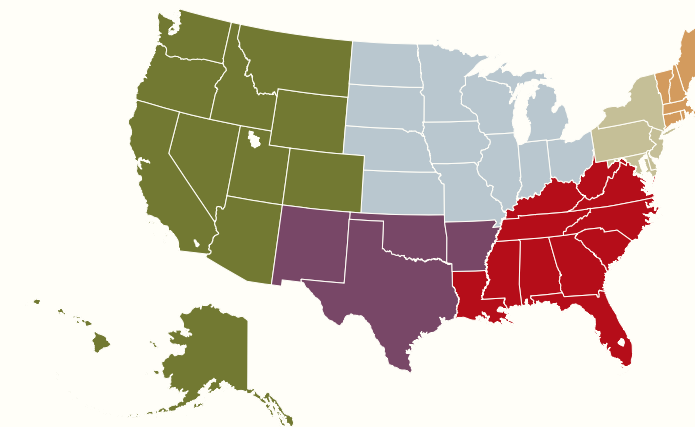
* Source: www.bls.gov/emp/ep_chart_001.htm

**Baum, Sandy, and Jennifer Ma. Trends in College Pricing 2014. N.p.: The College Board, 2014.

You can get an idea of how much to save for based upon the current costs of college and increasing it by 5% each year (as an estimate) between now and the time your child plans to start college. Each college publishes their "cost of attendance" to help parents and students preplan the expenses associated with attending that college. This information can help you to determine whether or not the college is within reach for you financially. **Remember, you don't have to save 100%.** The more you can save, the less likely you will need to rely on financial aid, scholarships, loans and other sources.

The chart below uses data collected by the College Board to show the difference in total costs for colleges and different types of schools in selected regions of the United States.

Yearly College Costs by Region



Assumes public two-year school costs are for in-state resident and commuting. Assumes public four-year school costs are for in-state residents living on campus. Assumes private four-year school costs are for living on campus.*

	WEST	SOUTHWEST	MIDWEST	SOUTH	MIDDLE STATES	NEW ENGLAND
PUBLIC 2 YR. SCHOOL	\$2,449	\$2,513	\$4,025	\$3,578	\$4,849	\$5,025
PUBLIC 4 YR. SCHOOL	\$21,105	\$16,944	\$19,149	\$17,935	\$21,627	\$23,344
PRIVATE 4 YR. SCHOOL	\$40,246	\$40,303	\$40,942	\$38,787	\$47,406	\$54,303

Yearly National Average

PUBLIC 2 YR. SCHOOL	PUBLIC 4 YR. SCHOOL	PRIVATE 4 YR. SCHOOL
\$3,740	\$20,017	\$43,667

* Source: The College Board, Trends in College Pricing 2015. Find out more by visiting Collegeboard.org, then navigating to *More > Higher Education* and clicking on the *Trends in Higher Education Reports* link at the bottom of the page.

USE TIME TO HELP REACH YOUR SAVINGS GOALS

Although saving for college might feel unattainable, it's far more possible when time is on your side. That's why starting early is so important — half of your savings years will have passed by the time your child is in the second grade. When you start early, you can take advantage of the power of compounding. A compounding effect occurs when any accrued interest or earnings in turn collect additional interest or earnings. The earlier you start, the more opportunity your money has to grow.

If you don't have an opportunity to save early, don't despair. Say you didn't start saving until your child was 12. That could still potentially pay for the majority of the first year's costs at a 4-year public college. Even if your child will be going to college in two years, with the way the Path2College 529 Plan works you could still have up to six years of potential account growth before your child graduates. With the power of compounding, small amounts can make a significant difference over time. There's simply no such thing as too late to start.

Advantages of Starting Early

INVESTING \$100 A MONTH STARTING AT:



BIRTH



TOTAL
\$59,240



AGE 6



TOTAL
\$31,474



AGE 12



TOTAL
\$15,844

\$5,000 Initial Contribution
 Money Invested
 Money Earned

This chart assumes a \$5,000 lump sum investment, a \$100 monthly investment and 6% annual rate of return. The calculations are for illustrative purposes only and the results are not indicative of the performance of any investments. Account values will fluctuate based upon a number of factors, including general market conditions. Past performance does not predict future results. The calculations do not reflect any plan fees or charges that may apply. If such fees or charges were taken into account, returns would have been lower. With any long-term investment, investment return may vary. Such automatic investment plans do not assure a profit or protect against losses in declining markets.

Saving vs. Borrowing

COST OF A 529-FUNDED EDUCATION

SAVING
\$448 per month
for 21 years.



TOTAL
\$113,000

COST OF STUDENT LOAN FUNDED EDUCATION

PAYING
Approximately
\$2,303 per month
for 10 years



TOTAL
\$276,383

This chart hypothetically assumes four years of college (current annual cost of \$20,000) for a child born today. To meet that expense you would need to save \$448 per month (from birth) in a 529 plan — totaling \$207,456; \$113,000 in contributions and \$94,456 in earnings, assuming a conservative 5 percent college cost inflation rate and a 6 percent annual investment return. If the same funds were borrowed to pay for college rather than saving and investing your child would graduate owing about \$276,383 in loans. This translates into a monthly payment of approximately \$2,303 over 10 years, assuming a 6 percent loan interest rate. In other words, college would end up costing an additional \$163,383, or more than double in out-of-pocket costs, than if you had saved and invested in advance.*

A LOAN FUNDED EDUCATION MAY IMPACT FUTURE FINANCES

Using both loans and savings to pay for college is a pretty common strategy today. There are definitely factors you'll want to consider when measuring the importance of college savings against other competing financial priorities — including the impact of debt on the student's lifetime earning potential and how saving versus borrowing stacks up dollar for dollar. When it comes to how you pay for school, it's better to save now than borrow later. **When you're saving, the compounded earnings potential can work for you. When you're borrowing, the interest rate can work against you.** In the same way that compounding earnings over a long period of time can significantly increase your savings, repaying interest on a loan over a long period of time can significantly increase your debt. One dollar saved today may be one less dollar borrowed tomorrow.

* The calculations are for illustrative purposes only and the results are not indicative of the performance of any investments. Account values will fluctuate based upon a number of factors, including general market conditions. Past performance does not predict future results. Source: www.savingforcollege.com

TAX ADVANTAGES CAN HELP YOU ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS

State Income Tax Information

One of the great features about the Path2College 529 Plan is the unique tax advantages specific only to Georgia residents. Contributions are deductible for Georgia income tax purposes up to \$2,000 per year per beneficiary for those filing a single return and \$4,000 per year per beneficiary for those filing a joint return. (Limitations apply. Please read the Disclosure Booklet for details.) Your beneficiary does not have to be a dependent for you to take advantage of the annual Georgia state income tax deduction. This may allow grandparents and others to receive the tax deduction, too. Additionally, any earnings are Georgia income tax-deferred, and when used for a qualified higher education expense, are Georgia income tax-free. You are eligible for these state tax advantages no matter what your income level.

TAX DEDUCTION FILING DEADLINE

Contributions made by **April 15th** are eligible for deduction for the previous tax year.

Federal Income Tax Benefits

The Path2College 529 Plan also offers federal income tax benefits. Although contributions are not deductible on your federal tax return, any investment earnings can grow tax-deferred, and qualified distributions to pay for the beneficiary's college costs are federally tax-free.

Estate Tax Planning Benefits

There's another tax advantage unique to the 529 college savings plan. There's no federal gift tax on contributions up to \$14,000 per year for single filers and \$28,000 for married filers. There's even an option to gift amounts up to \$70,000 for single filers and up to \$140,000 for married filers if pro-rated over 5 years. This means you could make a one-time gift equivalent to the 5 year amount and it could all qualify for the federal gift tax exclusion. Consult your tax advisor about your own particular situation.

The Potential Benefits of Tax Free Growth

INVESTING \$100 A MONTH FOR 18 YEARS:

529
ACCOUNT

\$54,958

TAXABLE
SAVINGS
ACCOUNT

\$46,788

This example assumes an initial investment of \$5,000, monthly contributions of \$100, and a 6% annual rate of return over 18 years. The taxable account assumes a 28% federal and 5% state tax rate. The calculations are for illustrative purposes only and the results are not indicative of the performance of any investments. Account values will fluctuate based upon a number of factors, including general market conditions. Past performance does not predict future results.

When you pay fewer taxes, you have more opportunities for your contributions to grow.



EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW AT A GLANCE

1 Anyone Can Open an Account or Contribute

The Path2College 529 Plan isn't just for parents — grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends can open an account. You can even open one for yourself. Plus, anyone can give to an account, further multiplying your savings potential.

2 Making Contributions is Affordable & Easy

Since you can make contributions as low as \$25, the Path2College 529 Plan is within most people's reach. But you can still save big with up to a maximum of \$235,000 dollars in contributions and earnings per beneficiary. Setting up automatic contributions online or by mail is a breeze, so it's easy to save.

3 You Control the Funds

As the account owner, you control when, where and how the money is used. If your child doesn't go to school right away or there are unused funds, you can let your account continue to accrue interest until they're ready or transfer the account to another eligible family member.

4 Go to School Anywhere and Use Funds for More than Tuition

Funds can be used at any accredited university, college or vocational school nationwide — and many abroad. Contributions and any investment earnings may be used for the designated beneficiary's qualified higher education expenses. Expenses include tuition and fees, books, certain room and board costs, laptops, computers and any related technology.

5 Qualified Withdrawals are Tax-Free

Withdrawals for qualified expenses are free from federal and state taxes. When you're ready to pay for college expenses, making a withdrawal online or by mail is easy.

6 Works with the HOPE Scholarship

The Path2College 529 Plan makes an excellent complement to Georgia's HOPE Scholarship since funds may be used for costs not covered by the HOPE Scholarship like books or certain room and board costs.

7 Minimal Impact on Financial Aid

There's minimal impact on financial aid. So long as the parent or grandparent is the account owner, funds are typically treated as belonging to them, not the child, minimizing the impact on financial aid.*

*The treatment of investments in a 529 savings plan varies by school. Assets are typically treated as the account holder's and not the student's. Any investments, including those in 529 accounts, may affect the student's eligibility to get financial aid based on need. You should check with the schools you are considering regarding this issue.

8 Rollover Funds from Other 529 Accounts

You are permitted to transfer funds from another 529 college savings plan to an account in the Path2College 529 Plan for the same beneficiary once within a 12-month period without incurring federal income tax.

9 Low Fees & Expenses

The Path2College 529 Plan has no application, maintenance or cancellation fees — only program management and underlying mutual fund fees less than half a percent.

10 More Investment Flexibility

The Path2College 529 Plan provides a variety of professionally managed investment options. The age-based portfolio option is good for people who want a simple all-in-one investment option as the beneficiary grows. You may also tailor your selections with multi-fund and/or a guaranteed option to match your risk tolerance, timeline and investment preferences. If you don't like your choice, change your investment options up to twice per calendar year.





CHOOSING YOUR INVESTMENT PATH

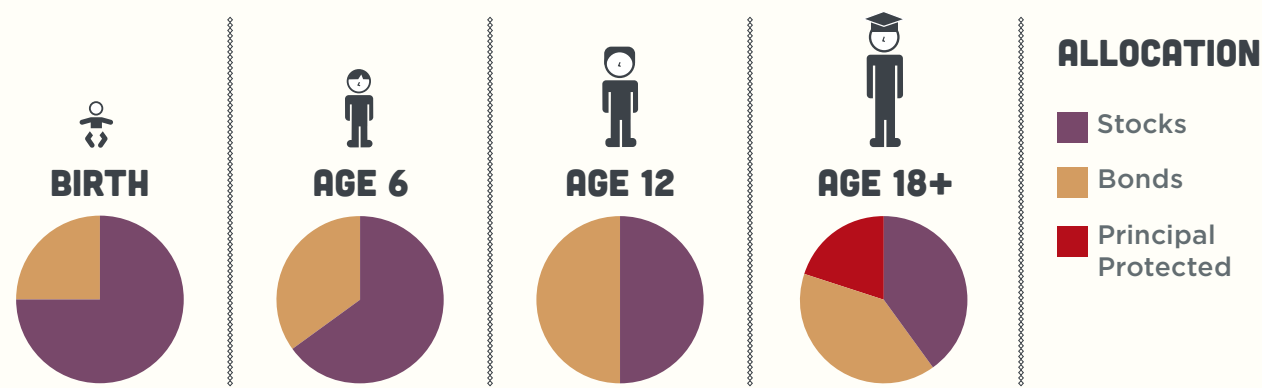
Professionally Managed Investment Options to Fit Your Life, Situation, Risk Tolerance and Goals

Now that you know about saving for college and the benefits of the Path2College 529 Plan, the next step is to choose your investments. Though the end goal is the same — to help pay for college — everyone’s investment strategy may not be the same and can even differ greatly based on unique circumstances, financial constraints, timelines and overall savings goals. If you don’t want the hassle of managing your investments, you might want to choose an age-based option that is a simple, all-in-one option so you can set your strategy on auto-pilot. If you’re an experienced investor, you might choose a multi-fund option you’ll review and change periodically. If your child is nearing college and you’ve been saving for a while, a principal protected investment might be the best choice.

Age-Based Options

The age-based investment options seek to match the investment objective and level of risk to the investment time horizon by taking into account the beneficiary’s current age and the number of years before the beneficiary turns 18 or is expected to start college. The risk level automatically shifts from aggressive to conservative as the beneficiary ages. This option is good for people who want an easy to manage, all-in-one option.

How Age-Based Investment Options Work



The above allocations are for illustration purposes only. Refer to the enclosed Disclosure Booklet for specific investment allocations for each age group.

Guaranteed Investment Option

This investment option seeks to preserve capital and provide a stable return. This option may be good for shorter timeframes to save and for individuals who have lower risk tolerance.

Multi-Fund Investment Options

These investment options seek to provide investments for account owners who prefer to select an investment for its specific asset allocation. Each multi-fund investment option is allocated to multiple underlying funds and/or a funding agreement and has a different investment objective and investment strategy. The allocations in the multi-fund investment options do not change automatically as the beneficiary ages as they do in the Age-Based Investment Options.

Single-Fund Investment Options

These investment options are each invested solely in either shares of a single Underlying Fund or a Funding Agreement. For those investment options invested in an Underlying Fund, their performance is entirely reliant on the performance of that Underlying Fund and may be more volatile than the age-based investment option or the multi-fund investment options. You should be aware that participants do not own shares of the underlying funds directly. This option may be good for people who are interested in specific single funds such as equity index, money market or social fund options.

Changing Your Investments

Once you invest in a particular investment option, you can transfer contributions and any earnings to another investment option up to twice per calendar year or upon a transfer of funds to a Path2College 529 Plan account for a different beneficiary. It’s a good idea to periodically re-evaluate your investment strategy as your goals, investment horizon and personal situation change — for example, annually at tax time, on a yearly basis if your income changes or upon the birth of another child.

LEARN MORE

For a detailed description of each investment option, please refer to the Disclosure Booklet or go to www.Path2College529.com/research



HOW TO GET STARTED

1

CHOOSE YOUR INVESTMENT PATH

- ➔ Carefully review the enclosed Disclosure Booklet.
- ➔ Determine your risk tolerance by visiting:
www.path2college529.com/tools/risk
- ➔ Choose the investment option that fits your life stage and goals.

2

OPEN YOUR ACCOUNT

- ➔ Complete the account application included here or enroll online at www.Path2College529.com/open
- ➔ Call us at **877-424-4377**. We will answer any questions and help you open your account.

3

START MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS

- ➔ One of the best ways to build your account is to set up an automatic contribution plan from your checking, savings or paycheck.
- ➔ And don't forget to ask others to make gift contributions for birthdays and holidays!



NOTES

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Path2College 529 Plan

www.path2college529.com

The Path2College 529 Plan social media platforms are managed by the Georgia Student Finance Commission.



*“An investment
in knowledge pays
the best interest.”*

~ BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



877-424-4377

www.Path2College529.com

Consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses before investing in the Path2College 529 Plan. Please refer to the enclosed Plan Disclosure Booklet or visit www.path2college529.com for the Plan Disclosure Booklet and other information. Read it carefully.

Before investing in a 529 plan, you should consider whether the state you or your designated Beneficiary reside in or have taxable income in has a 529 plan that offers favorable state income tax or other benefits that are available only if you invest in that state's 529 plan.

Taxpayers should seek advice based on their own particular circumstances from an independent tax advisor. Non-qualified withdrawals may be subject to federal and state taxes and the additional 10% federal tax. Account value in the Investment Options is not guaranteed and will fluctuate based upon a number of factors, including general market conditions. TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc., Program Manager. TIAA-CREF Individual & Institutional Services, LLC, member FINRA, distributor and underwriter for the Path2College 529 Plan. Neither TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc., nor its affiliates, are responsible for the content found on any external website links referenced herein.

