Saving for College

Understanding 529 Plans & Education Savings Strategies

Higher education costs continue to rise. Recent estimates show that the average annual cost of attendance, including tuition, fees, room, and board, can exceed $27,000 at public four-year colleges and approach $59,000 at private nonprofit institutions[1]. Over four years, those costs can add up quickly, making it more important than ever to plan ahead.

If you haven't started saving for your child's future education, you're not alone. The good news is that even small, consistent contributions can make a meaningful difference over time.

One popular option is a 529 college savings plan, a tax-advantaged account designed specifically to help families save for qualified education expenses. Earnings grow tax-deferred, and qualified withdrawals are generally tax-free.[2]

Why Families Choose a 529 Plan

- Tax-advantaged growth potential
- Flexible investment options
- Funds can be used at eligible schools nationwide
- Ability to change beneficiaries if plans change
- No income limitations to participate
- Account owners maintain control of assets

The Power of Starting Early

Starting early may provide more time for your savings to grow and can help reduce the amount you may need to save later. A simple approach can help families stay on track:

01 **Set a savings goal.**

02 **Contribute consistently.**

03 **Review your options.**

04 **Adjust as your needs change.**

Experience the Power of Partnership

Contact your Henderson Brothers Financial Partners contact to learn more about education savings strategies and whether a 529 plan may fit your family's goals.

Leanne Borgan
Senior Education Consultant
Henderson Brothers Financial Partners
412-754-3187 lborgan@hbfp1893.com

Schedule a 1-1 meeting:

Sources:
1. National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Price of Attending an Undergraduate Institution. https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator/cua
2. U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), An Introduction to 529 Plans. Available at: https://www.investor.gov/introduction-investing/general-resources/news-alerts/alerts-bulletins/investor-bulletins/introduction-529-plans
3. RPAG Resource Center, Financial Wellness 101 – Saving for College (login required via https://app.rpag.com/pmprichui/login).