

WHAT IS A 529 PLAN?

Named after Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code, 529 plans are investment accounts used to pay for a beneficiary's college expenses and are usually opened many years before the beneficiary reaches college age.

AVERAGE COLLEGE TUITION & FEES



In-State Community College **02** YEARS



In-State Public College **0234** YEARS



Out-of-State Public College **0234** YEARS



Private College **0234** YEARS



NUMBER OF 529 PLANS IN THE U.S.

\$205.7

ASSETS HELD IN 529 ACCOUNTS IN 2013 \$18,000

AVERAGE INVESTMENT IN A SINGLE 529 PLAN

STATES THAT PARTIALLY MATCH CONTRIBUTIONS FOR LOW INCOME FAMILIES:



COLORADO KANSAS LOUISIANA MAINE NEVADA NORTH DAKOTA RHODE ISLAND HATU vest virginia

ARKANSAS

HAT'S COVERED Tuition Fees or Expenses Room & Board Textbooks



TYPES OF 529 PLANS

PREPAID PLANS

- Purchase tuition credits at today's rates to be used in the future
- Administered by states or higher education institutions
- 10 states provide plans:
 - Florida
- Nevada
- Illinois
- Pennsylvania Texas
- Maryland Massachusetts - Michigan
- Virginia - Washington

SAVINGS PLANS

- Growth based upon market performance of the underlying investments (usually mutual funds)
- Offers variety of age-based asset allocation options where underlying investments become more conservative as the beneficiary gets closer to college age
- Administered by states only
 - Administrative services are delegated to mutual fund companies or other financial services companies



TAX INCENTIVES

- ☑ Earnings are tax free in all states
- ☑ Must be used for covered expenses
- ☑ Tax deduction in many states
- ☑ Principal can never be taxed
- ✓ Non-qualified purchases are taxed plus 10% penalty applies



SOURCES:

US News & World Report, How to Pick a 529 Plan, September 2014

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College Savings Plans Network, College Cost Calculator http://www.collegesavings.org/collegeCost Calculator.aspx

Savingforcollege.com, What is a 529 plan?, January 2015

http://www.savingforcollege.com/intro_to_529s/what-is-a-529-plan.php