



Don't miss out
on 529 benefits!

Make the Most of Your CollegeCounts 529 Account Before Year-End

Between fall festivities and holiday preparations, year-end to-do lists can fill up quickly. As you check tasks off your list, don't forget to take a few minutes to review your **CollegeCounts 529** account. Whether you're planning to contribute, request a withdrawal for qualified expenses, or roll over an out-of-state 529 plan, acting before the **December 31** deadline can help you maximize your tax benefits and stay on track with your education savings goals.

✓ Make Your Year-End Contribution

Alabama taxpayers may be eligible for an Alabama state income tax deduction of up to \$5,000 for individuals or \$10,000 for married couples filing jointly when both spouses contribute.¹

To qualify for the 2026 tax year, online contributions must be completed by 11:59 p.m. CT on **December 31, 2026**, and mailed contributions must be postmarked **by December 31**.

Take a few minutes today to log into your account at **CollegeCounts529.com** to make your contribution and start the new year knowing you've invested in your student's future.

Please consult your tax professional about any tax-related questions and the tax implications of contributions, withdrawals or rollovers.

✓ 2026 Withdrawal Deadline – December 31

Need to take a withdrawal for qualified educational expenses?² Log in to your account at **CollegeCounts529.com** and request a withdrawal with just a few clicks. Withdrawals can be issued to the account owner, beneficiary, directly to the school or applied to a CollegeCounts CollegePay prepaid card.

We recommend requesting any withdrawals for 2026 expenses by 3:00 p.m. CT on **December 31**.

Remember to keep receipts and documentation for all qualified expenses and consult your tax professional with any tax-related questions.

✓ Considering a 529 Rollover?

Alabama taxpayers who complete an eligible rollover³ of an out-of-state 529 by **December 31** may qualify for an Alabama state income tax deduction.¹ In addition to potential tax benefits, rolling over your account can simplify your education savings strategy.

Because rollovers can take several weeks to process, it's important to start early.

Learn more at **CollegeCounts529.com/rollover**.

CollegeCounts Scholarship – Applications Accepted Beginning December 1

As your student begins planning for college, don't overlook opportunities that can help support their educational journey. If they will be attending an Alabama college as a freshman in fall 2027, encourage them to apply for the **CollegeCounts Scholarship**.

Starting December 1, applications will be accepted for the 2027-28 school year. Selected recipients may receive:

💰 Up to \$2,000 for students attending a 2-year Alabama college.

💰 Up to \$4,000 for students attending a 4-year Alabama college.

Each year, CollegeCounts aims to award at least two scholarships in every county across Alabama to students with financial need, helping them pursue higher education and work toward their long-term goals.

Application Period:
December 1, 2026 – February 15, 2027

Learn more and apply at:
treasury.alabama.gov/programs/collegecounts-scholarship/



First Grade, First Step Giveaway is Back



Saving today can make a difference tomorrow! CollegeCounts is excited to help Alabama families start building for the future with the **First Grade, First Step Giveaway**.

Parents and grandparents of Alabama first graders can enter for a chance to receive a \$100 contribution to a **CollegeCounts 529** account, with up to 20 winners selected each month throughout the 2026-2027 school year.

Visit CollegeCounts529.com/firstgrade to enter. A single registration automatically enters you into each monthly drawing throughout the school year.

The CollegeCounts 529 Fund is a qualified tuition program under Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code that is offered by the State of Alabama, administered by the Board of Trustees of the ACES Trust Fund (the "Trust" and plan issuer), marketed as the CollegeCounts 529 Fund, and Union Bank and Trust Company serves as Program Manager. 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 State of Alabama, the State Treasurer of Alabama, the Board, the Trust, the Program, any other state, any agency or instrumentality thereof, Union Bank and Trust Company, the FDIC, or any other entity. Investment returns are not guaranteed. Account Owners in the Plan assume all investment risk, including the potential loss of principal.

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 Program Disclosure Statement (issuer's official statement), which can be obtained by calling 866.529.2228 and at CollegeCounts529.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.

¹Individuals who file an Alabama state income tax return are eligible to deduct for Alabama state income tax purposes up to \$5,000 per tax year (\$10,000 for married taxpayers filing jointly if both contribute) for total combined

5/29 Day Giveaway Winners

The arrival of a newborn brings endless hopes, dreams and possibilities. That's why CollegeCounts is thrilled to congratulate the **29** Alabama families randomly selected to receive a \$529 contribution to a CollegeCounts account as part of the **CollegeCounts 5/29 Day Giveaway**.

As these children begin their journeys, we're honored to help their families take an early step toward achieving their future educational goals.

"What you do today can improve all your tomorrows."

– Ralph Marston



contributions to the Plan and other State of Alabama 529 programs. The contributions made to such qualifying plans are deductible on the tax return of the contributing taxpayer for the tax year in which the contributions are made. In the event of a Nonqualified Withdrawal from the Plan, for Alabama state income tax purposes, an amount must be added back to the income of the contributing taxpayer in an amount of the Nonqualified Withdrawal plus ten percent (10%) of such amount withdrawn. Such amount will be added back to the income of the contributing taxpayer in the tax year that the Nonqualified Withdrawal was distributed. Please consult with your tax professional.

²Withdrawals 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.

³Rollovers from another qualified tuition program are treated as a non-taxable distribution from the distributing qualified tuition program provided (1) it has been more than 12 months since any previous rollover for the beneficiary, or (2) the beneficiary of the account is changed to a Member of the Family of the current beneficiary.

NOT FDIC INSURED* | NO BANK GUARANTEE | MAY LOSE VALUE

(*Except the Bank Savings 529 Portfolio underlying investment)

CollegeCounts529.com | 866.529.2228

CollegeCounts™
Alabama's 529 Fund



Offered by the
State of Alabama

UBT 529 SERVICES, a division of
UBT
Union Bank & Trust
Program Manager