

Switching from Saving to Using Your Funds

The fall semester isn't just a first for new college students. It's a first for parents and grandparents as they begin using their Bright Directions account for college. Here's what to know when it's time to access your funds, including where they can be used, how to make payments, and what they cover.



Use for College Almost Anywhere

Bright Directions funds can be used at institutions nationwide such as public and private colleges and universities; vocational, trade, technical, and professional institutions; and even some foreign schools. Any postsecondary educational institution that meets accreditation criteria and is eligible to participate in Federal Student Aid programs is generally eligible.



Make Account Withdrawals Ahead of Time

Be sure to make a withdrawal request at least 10 days before the payment is due to allow the college time to receive and properly credit the payment. Bright Directions makes it easy to request a withdrawal by logging into your account online and following the simple steps. Withdrawal requests received in good order are typically processed within one business day and funds are distributed based on your direction to either the account owner, beneficiary, or college.



Pay for More Than Tuition

Along with tuition and fees, Bright Directions funds may be used to pay for books, supplies, equipment, a computer, special needs services for a special needs beneficiary, apprenticeship program expenses, as well as repayment of up to \$10,000 of qualified education loans of the beneficiary or a sibling of the beneficiary. Bright Directions funds can also be used for room and board if your student is enrolled at least half-time.

Learn more at BrightDirections.com/use-of-funds



COACH'S QUIZ

Can You Pass This 529 Terms Test?

It's one thing to walk the college savings walk. It's another to talk the talk. Coach Banks, our trusty trainer for college-saving families, is back to see how well you know 529 lingo. Take our five-question quiz of the most important terms and see if you grade out as a savvy saver.



Take the Quiz Now



NYT Columnist Answers College Savers' Hottest Questions

As higher education costs keep climbing, it's natural to wonder if there's a better way to save for it. But ask Ron Lieber — New York Times columnist and author of *The Price You Pay for College* — and he'll tell you 529 college savings plans are the most advantageous way for families to save. See his full response and other answers to parents' pressing college-saving questions in this Q&A with NPR.



Scan to Read Ron Lieber's Q&A

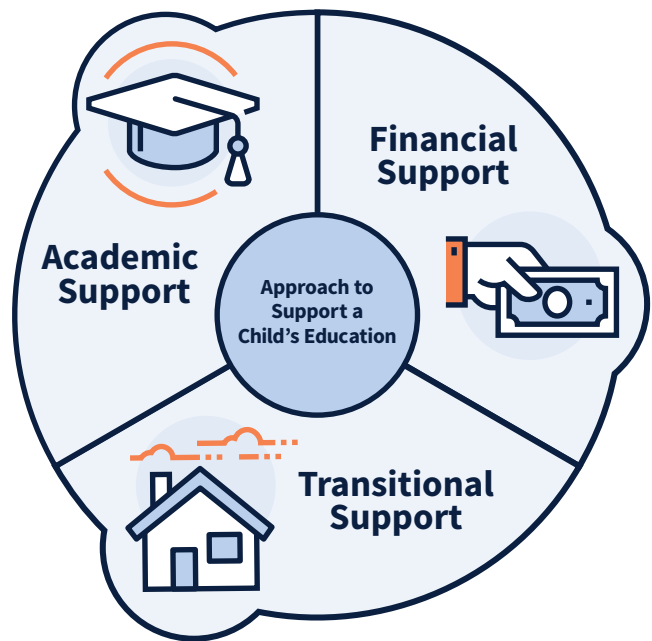


A Holistic Approach to Supporting a Child's Education

A 529 plan is one of the best ways to support your child's college dreams, but there are even more ways you can help. See how you can empower them academically, financially, and personally as they transition to higher education and beyond.



Scan to Learn More



The Bright Directions College Savings Program is sponsored by the State of Illinois and administered by the Illinois State Treasurer, as Trustee. Union Bank and Trust Company serves as Program Manager and Northern Trust Securities, Inc., acts as Distributor. Balances in your Bright Directions account are not guaranteed or insured by Bright Directions, the State of Illinois, the Illinois State Treasurer, any other state or federal agency, Union Bank and Trust Company or any of its affiliates, Northern Trust Securities, Inc. or any of its affiliates, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (except as provided in the Program Disclosure Statement solely with respect to the FDIC-insured Bank Savings Underlying Investment), or any other entity.

An investor should consider the investment objectives, risks, and charges and expenses before investing. This and other important information is contained in the Bright Directions Advisor-Guided 529 College Savings Program Disclosure Statement, which can be obtained from your financial professional or at BrightDirections.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. Before you invest, consider whether your or the beneficiary's home state offers any state tax or other state benefits such as financial aid, scholarship funds, and protection from creditors that are only available for investments in that state's 529 plan.

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