



IOWA ALLIANCE
FOR CHOICE IN EDUCATION

Iowa 529 Savings Plans Information

Disclaimer

This fact sheet is not intended to provide tax or legal advice. If you are considering using an Iowa 529 plan for K-12 purposes and you have specific questions about your impact, please seek guidance from a tax professional or an attorney. This document is subject to change.

Federal Law Change

Beginning in 2018, qualified expenses for federal tax benefit purposes include K-12 tuition at public, private, or religious schools up to \$10,000 per year per student in the aggregate across all qualified tuition programs for a designated beneficiary.

Iowa State Law Change

The Iowa Tax Reform legislation signed into law in June 2018 contained provisions related to distributions from an Iowa 529. The tax provisions were retroactive to Jan. 1, 2018. Under this legislation Iowa taxpayers can use assets in one of the plans under the Iowa Education Savings Plan Trust to pay for K-12 tuition with no Iowa state tax consequences if:

- The beneficiary attends an elementary or secondary school in the state of Iowa;
- The elementary or secondary school is accredited under Iowa Code Section 256.11; and
- The elementary or secondary school adheres to the provisions of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Iowa Code Chapter 216.

State tax treatment of K-12 withdrawals is determined by the state(s) where the taxpayer files state income tax. If you're not an Iowa taxpayer, please consult with a tax advisor.

FAQ's

What are the potential Iowa income tax benefits of a 529 account?

All of your College Savings Iowa 529 account earnings are exempt from Iowa state income tax. Iowa taxpayers can deduct up to \$3,439 in contributions per beneficiary (student) account from their adjusted gross income for 2020. The contribution deduction amount changes yearly.

So for example, if you are married with 2 children and both you and your spouse contribute to separate accounts for each child, together you can deduct up to \$13,756 from your income taxes (4 x \$3,439) in 2020.

Please note: Iowa taxpayers can contribute to their College Savings Iowa 529 accounts until the Iowa state income tax-filing deadline, which is generally April 30. The deduction amount for tax year 2019 is \$3,387. Before the April 30, 2020, deadline, taxpayers can still make contributions to a 529 that could be included on their 2019 returns. Please see your tax advisor for further advice.

(Information provided by College Savings Iowa)

If I pay K-12 tuition from a 529 account, may I still take the Tuition and Textbook Tax Credit on my qualified educational expenses?

Yes. Taxpayers who have one or more dependents attending grades K-12 in an Iowa school may take a credit for each dependent for amounts paid for tuition, books, fees, and materials for extracurricular activities. The credit is 25 percent of the first \$1,000 paid for each dependent. If expenses qualify for both a tax-free 529 plan deduction, as well as the tuition and textbook credit, the taxpayer may claim both.

So for example, if a parent pays his or her child's tuition to an Iowa K-12 school out of a 529 account, he or she may claim the Tuition and Textbook Credit on that tuition payment as well.

(Information provided by Iowa Department of Revenue)

Can an Iowa taxpayer use their 529 funds for K-12 tuition out of state?

Yes. However, their withdrawal would be considered nonqualified for Iowa state tax purposes and would be subject to recapture.

What is the recapture on non-qualified withdrawals?

Contributions to an Iowa 529 Plan that were previously deducted for Iowa income tax purposes must be included as Iowa income when distributed, unless they are used to pay for qualified education expenses. For Iowa income tax purposes, a rollover to a non-Iowa 529 plan will be treated as a non-qualified withdrawal and taxed as income to the extent previously deducted as a contribution to the Iowa 529 Plan.

Who can receive a distribution for K-12 tuition?

A qualified K-12 withdrawal can be sent directly to a K-12 institution or to the participant. Unlike higher education qualified withdrawals, distributions will not be sent directly to the beneficiary (the student).

Can a 529 participant have a K-12 distribution sent directly to the K-12 institution?

Yes. Withdrawals may be authorized and completed online, by U.S. mail, or over the phone, and can be sent directly to the K-12 institution.

Are the age-based tracks suitable for funds contributed for K-12 purposes?

No. Age-based options are designed for higher education and are generally not appropriate for K-12 time horizons. Please consult with a tax advisor for additional advice.

Are other K-12 expenses such as books and supplies qualified education expenses?

No. Tuition is the only qualified education expense for K-12.

How quickly can I receive my funds?

Please allow 10 business days (plus mailing time, if applicable) for funds to arrive.

All qualified withdrawals requested online or by phone may be sent:

- By check to the College Savings Iowa participant or the school.
- Electronically if bank instructions are established on your account.

If you intend to add or change bank information, please factor in a 15-calendar-day verification period, during which assets cannot be sent to the bank.

What if I have additional questions?

Please call the 529 Plan and an associate will assist you.

College Savings Iowa: 888.672.9116

IAdvisor 529 Plan: 888.823.4358

Iowa ACE coordinated with the State Treasurer's office for this information.

Trish Wilger, Executive Director, Iowa Alliance for Choice in Education,
twilger@iowaace.org, 515.323.0687

Revised January 14, 2020