Social Media Posts:

#DYK what a 529 plan is? A 529 plan is a tax-advantaged investment plan designed to help families save for someone’s future education expenses. Learn more here: <https://www.collegesavings.org/what-is-529/>

As your child is going back to school, educate yourself on the 529 plans available in your state by clicking here: <https://www.collegesavings.org/find-my-states-529-plan/>

Pop Quiz! Are you interested in starting a college savings plan but not sure where to begin? Take our quiz to get a head start and test your 529 knowledge. <https://www.collegesavings.org/7-questions-to-answer-before-selecting-your-529-plan/>

Are you making your back-to-school shopping list? Make sure you are adding contributions to a 529 plan as a tool for success this school year. Learn more here {insert state link}

Scientific or graphing calculator on your back-to-school list this fall? Make sure you also take time to calculate how much to expect in college expenses here: <https://www.collegesavings.org/college-cost-calculator/>

Every good class starts with a rubric so you can plan out the year. Do the same with saving for college and make your plan today. Check out some suggestions: <https://www.collegesavings.org/getting-started/>

Was math your favorite subject in school? Then you are sure to find the tax advantages of 529 programs enticing! Click here to see the advantages and benefits of opening a 529 account today: <https://www.collegesavings.org/plan-advantages/>

Sample Press Release

(July XX, 2023 – {City, State}) Treasurer XX is proud to remind citizens of the opportunity to invest in future education costs through {529 Program Name}. A 529 plan is a tax-advantaged investment plan designed to help families save for a beneficiary’s (typically one’s child or grandchild) future education expenses. Savings in a 529 plan grow free from federal income tax, and withdrawals remain tax-free when used for qualified education expenses.

 529 plans are different than a typical bank account in that your account earnings are usually based on the market performance of the underlying investments, which typically consist of mutual funds. 529 plans are offered by forty-nine states, Washington, D.C. and a consortium of private colleges and universities offer 529 plans. Nationally, as of March 31st, the average balance in a 529 account is $26,783. Over 16 million 529 accounts are open across the country with more than $434.4 billion invested for education expenses as of March 31st, 2023.

Here in {INSERT STATE}, we have {INSERT PROGRAM NAME AND INFORMATION, MAKE SURE TO INCLUDE ANY STATE TAX INCENTIVES}

A 529 plan is designed to encourage early and consistent savings efforts by offering an easy, affordable, and convenient way for families to save for college. Contributions can be made conveniently through payroll deduction or automatic transfers from a bank account. Money can be used to pay for a variety of education expenses, including tuition, fees, room, board, books, supplies, and required equipment.

To learn more about how your family can benefit from a {INSERT STATE NAME}, contact {INSERT CONTACT INFO}.

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Sample Op-Ed

The start of a school year brings so much excitement but also so many nerves! It is a time for expanding educational horizons and new opportunities. Along with those new opportunities comes the back-to-school checklists to make sure children are equipped with the tools to succeed for the school year. How are you doing with your list? You might have forgotten one of the most important items and you didn’t even realize it!

While it can be easy to get bogged down with the needs of today and tomorrow, it is vital that families also plan for the next five, ten and even fifteen years. Is there a checklist for that? Maybe not, but I would offer that if there was, a 529 plan would be at the top of the list.

A 529 plan is a tax-advantaged investment plan designed to help families save for a beneficiary’s (typically one’s child or grandchild) future education expenses. Savings in a 529 plan grow free from federal income tax, and withdrawals remain tax-free when used for qualified education expenses. 529s are designed to encourage early and consistent savings efforts by offering an easy, affordable, and convenient way for families to save for college.

Money can be used to pay for a variety of education expenses, including tuition, fees, room, board, books, supplies, and required equipment. Does your child already have a dream school? Great! If not, you don’t have to worry because 529 funds can be used at virtually any accredited college in the United States and in some foreign countries.

This isn’t a new concept. The opportunity for families to save in 529 accounts has been around for over 30 years. In 1996, U.S. Senator Bob Graham of Florida, where a prepaid plan was well established, and U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, which had a savings trust, led a bipartisan effort to provide federal tax relief for all plans, resulting in the creation of Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). The development of IRC Section 529 and the resulting federal tax benefits spurred the development of college-savings plans nationwide. From 1996 to 2000, 30 states developed and launched a Section 529 plan, dramatically increasing the opportunities for families to begin to save for the rising costs of higher education. Now, 49 states, Washington, D.C. and a consortium of private colleges and universities offer 529 plans to US residents.

{INSERT STATE SPECIFIC PROGRAM INFO AND DATA}

So as you are caught up in the hustle and bustle of back-to-school season checking off all of those shopping lists, don’t forget to think long-term and consider a 529 plan for the expenses coming in the future.