



California's ScholarShare 529 is available to residents of any state. It offers a variety of investment options from TIAA-CREF, T. Rowe Price, and others.

5-Cap Rating

Resident:  Savingforcollege.com's 5-Cap Ratings provides an evaluation and comparison of 529 plans, utilizing a formula that examines dozens of factors grouped into the following categories. (Scale 0 to 5; 5 is highest)

Non-Resident: 

Performance	Costs	Features	Reliability	Resident Upgrade
4.80	4.92	3.90	4.57	0.00

Investment Options

Age-based investment options:

Choose between 2 age-based options, one invested in actively-managed mutual funds and the other invested in index mutual funds. Contributions are placed into the portfolio corresponding to the beneficiary's age. The portfolios automatically shift to a more conservative investment allocation over time.

Static investment options:

Select among 12 multi-fund portfolios, 4 individual-fund portfolios (including the Social Choice Portfolio), and a principal-protection portfolio.

Underlying investments:

Actively-managed portfolios: T. Rowe Price, TIAA-CREF, DFA, PIMCO. Index-fund portfolios: TIAA-CREF. The Principal Plus Interest Option is provided through a funding agreement with TIAA-CREF Life.

Taxes and other Benefits

Program match on contributions:

The 2019 Matching Grant Program offers a dollar-for-dollar match contribution of up to \$200 on new accounts. Families that establish a monthly automatic contribution plan of \$25 or more are eligible for a \$25 bonus. Eligible parents/guardians must be California residents at enrollment, have a valid social security number or a federal tax ID number, and have an adjusted gross annual income of \$75,000 or less.

State tax deduction or credit for contributions:

None

State tax recapture provisions:

There is no state tax deduction and therefore no recapture. However, a non-qualified withdrawal by a California taxpayer is subject to an additional 2.5% California penalty tax on the earnings portion, but only if subject to the the additional 10% federal additional penalty tax.

State definition of qualified expenses

The state's definition of qualified education expenses currently includes expenses for attendance at an institution of higher education as defined by the Internal Revenue Code and its regulations addressing qualified state tuition programs. This does not include tuition for elementary or secondary education.

State tax treatment of qualified distributions:

Qualified distributions from California and non-California 529 plans are exempt.

State tax treatment of rollovers:

California follows federal tax-free treatment.

Does the sponsoring state exclude the value of an account for state financial aid purposes?

No., but California excludes 529 plans when considering eligibility for Medi-Cal.

Does participation in the program provide beneficiaries with any advantages in qualifying for resident tuition status at state institutions?

No

Does the program have a formal agreement with a rewards program or outside scholarship program?

Yes, the Upromise Rewards program can be linked to any 529 college savings plan. Upromise Rewards is free to join and offers members cash back for college.

General

Program type:

Savings

How to enroll:

Enroll directly with the program.

Initial year of operation:

1999

State agency(ies):

The ScholarShare Investment Board (SIB) chaired by the State Treasurer

Program manager:

TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc. (TFI)

Program distributor:

TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc. (TFI)

Contributions

Maximum contributions:

Accepts contributions until all account balances in California's 529 plans for the same beneficiary reach \$529,000.

Minimum contributions:

With lump-sum contributions and non-payroll automatic contributions, the minimum initial contribution is \$25 per investment portfolio. The minimum subsequent contribution of \$25 per investment portfolio has been waived. With the payroll deduction plan, the minimum contribution level per portfolio is \$15 per payroll period.

Fees & Expenses

Enrollment or application fee:

None.

Account maintenance fee:

None.

Program management fees:

0.08% (includes 0.05% state fee); 0.03% for Passive and Single Fund Portfolios (no state fee); None for the Principal Plus Interest Portfolio.

Expenses of the underlying investments:

Ranges from 0.05% to 0.12% annualized in the index fund portfolios, from 0.23% to 0.49% annualized in the actively managed fund portfolios, 0.08% to 0.17% in the passive portfolios, 0.18 in the Social Choice Portfolio, and none for the Principal Plus Interest Portfolio.

Total asset-based expense ratio:

0.08% - 0.57%. None for the Principal Plus Interest Portfolio.

Contact

Website:

<http://www.scholarshare.com>

Telephone:

1-800-544-5248

Twitter

[scholarshare529](#)

Plan Portfolios

There is no investment data available for this plan. Please visit <http://www.scholarshare.com> for additional information.