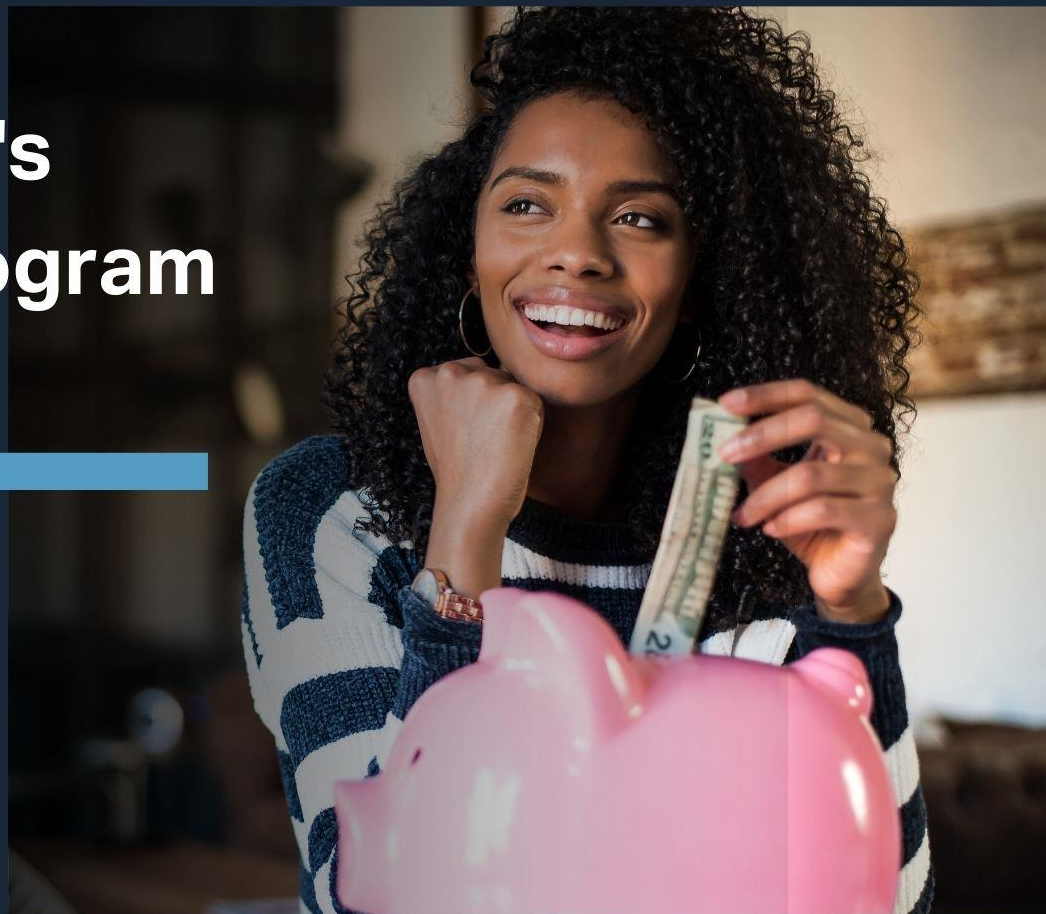


WEBINAR | JUNE 2025

California's Children's Savings Account Program

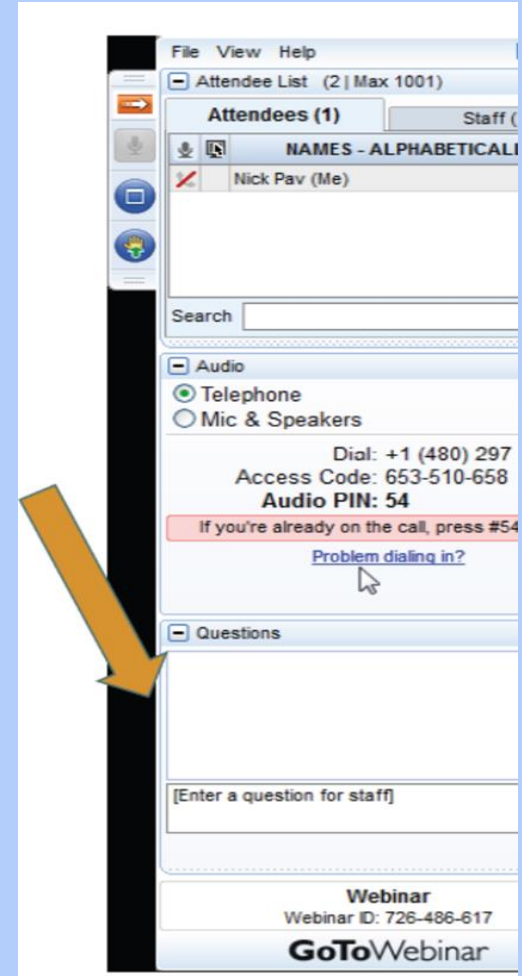
ALLIANCE
for CHILDREN'S
RIGHTS


CalKIDS
California Kids Investment and
Development Savings Program



Logistics

- Webinar resources, including recording and supplemental materials, will be posted at <https://allianceforchildrensrights.org/resources/>
- All attendees are muted during webinar.
- Please submit questions using the “Questions” function on your GoToWebinar dashboard.





California Kids Investment and
Development Savings Program

For Today

- Introducing CalKIDS
- Determining Eligibility
- Newborn Program
- Student Program
- Requesting a Distribution
- Opening & Linking a ScholarShare 529 Account
- Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions

Introducing CalKIDS

What We Know About College Savings

Children with a college savings account are
3X more likely to attend college.

Children with a college savings account are
4X more likely to graduate from college.



Source: (Elliott, W., Song, H-a, & Nam, I. (2013). Small-dollar children's saving accounts and children's college outcomes by income level. Children and Youth Services Review, 35 (3), p. 560-571).

“California is telling our students that we believe they’re college material — not only do we believe it, but we’ll also invest in them directly.”

**Gavin Newsom, Governor
State of California**






**From the
State of
California**



**Up to
\$1,500**
for college,
trade school
or career
programs



**For eligible
newborns &
low-income
public school
students**

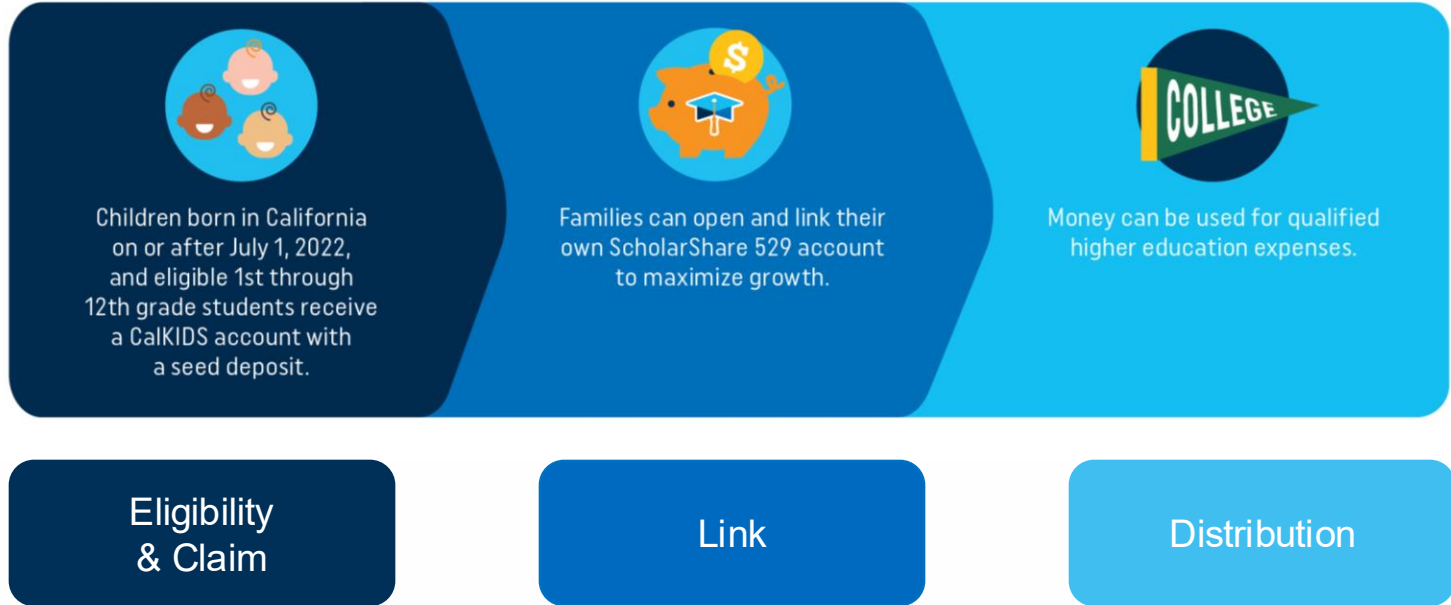
CalKIDS Accounts Funded in its First Year



“An investment of this magnitude in our children will undoubtedly help make the dream of a college education come true for a large number of families statewide.”

Fiona Ma, California State Treasurer

Life Cycle of a CalKIDS Account



A woman with curly hair and a young girl are sitting at a table, smiling and looking at papers together. The woman is on the left, leaning over the table, and the girl is on the right, holding a piece of paper. They appear to be in a kitchen or a similar indoor setting. The image has a blue tint.

Determining Eligibility

Who is Eligible for CalKIDS?

CalKIDS accounts are awarded to two groups:



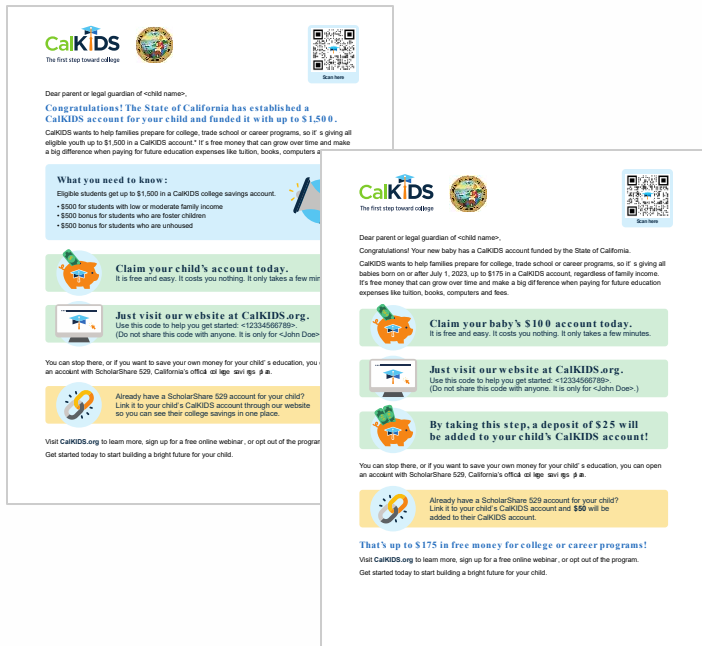
**All California
newborns**

(born on or after July 1, 2022)



**Low-income
students**

Simple Steps to Determine Eligibility



This is a template for a notification letter from CalKIDS. It includes the CalKIDS logo, a QR code, and a 'Sign here' line. The letter is addressed to the parent or legal guardian of a child named [child name]. It congratulates the family for establishing a CalKIDS account and provides information about the account's purpose and funding. It also lists the benefits of the account and provides instructions on how to claim the account, including a link to the CalKIDS website and a QR code.

CalKIDS
The first step toward college

Dear parent or legal guardian of [child name],

Congratulations! The State of California has established a CalKIDS account for your child and funded it with up to \$1,500.

CalKIDS wants to help families prepare for college, trade school or career programs, so it's giving all eligible youth up to \$1,500 in a CalKIDS account. It's free money that can grow over time and make a big difference when paying for future education expenses like tuition, books, computers, and more.

What you need to know:

- Eligible students get up to \$1,500 in a CalKIDS college savings account.
- \$500 for students with low or moderate family income
- \$500 bonus for students who are foster children
- \$500 bonus for students who are unhoused

Claim your child's account today.
It is free and easy. It costs you nothing. It only takes a few minutes.

Just visit our website at CalKIDS.org.
Use this code to help you get started: <1233456789>
(Do not share this code with anyone. It is only for <John Doe>.)

You can stop there, or if you want to save your own money for your child's education, you can open an account with ScholarShare 529, California's office at age and age 18.

Already have a ScholarShare 529 account for your child?
Link it to your child's CalKIDS account through our website so you can see their college savings in one place.

Visit CalKIDS.org to learn more, sign up for a free online webinar, or opt out of the program. Get started today to start building a bright future for your child.

CalKIDS
The first step toward college

Dear parent or legal guardian of [child name],

Congratulations! Your new baby has a CalKIDS account funded by the State of California.

CalKIDS wants to help families prepare for college, trade school or career programs, so it's giving all babies born on or after July 1, 2023, up to \$175 in a CalKIDS account, regardless of family income. It's free money that can grow over time and make a big difference when paying for future education expenses like tuition, books, computers and fees.

Claim your baby's \$100 account today.
It is free and easy. It costs you nothing. It only takes a few minutes.

Just visit our website at CalKIDS.org.
Use this code to help you get started: <1233456789>
(Do not share this code with anyone. It is only for <John Doe>.)

By taking this step, a deposit of \$25 will be added to your child's CalKIDS account!

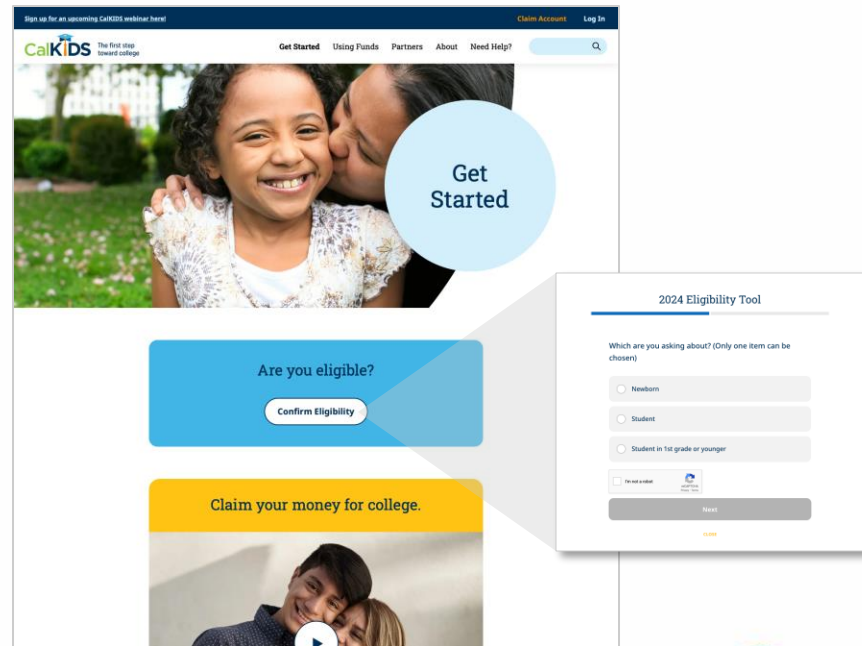
You can stop there, or if you want to save your own money for your child's education, you can open an account with ScholarShare 529, California's office at age and age 18.

Already have a ScholarShare 529 account for your child?
Link it to your child's CalKIDS account and \$50 will be added to their CalKIDS account.

That's up to \$175 in free money for college or career programs!

Visit CalKIDS.org to learn more, sign up for a free online webinar, or opt out of the program. Get started today to start building a bright future for your child.

Notification Letters



This is a screenshot of the CalKIDS Eligibility Tool. It features a header with the CalKIDS logo and navigation links. The main content area shows a large image of a smiling child and a 'Get Started' button. Below this is a section titled 'Are you eligible?' with a 'Confirm Eligibility' button. Further down is a section titled 'Claim your money for college.' with a play button icon. On the right side, there is a '2024 Eligibility Tool' sidebar with a question: 'Which are you asking about? (Only one item can be chosen)'. The options are: Newborn, Student, Student in 1st grade or younger, and Parent/child. The 'Newborn' option is selected. A 'Next' button is at the bottom of the sidebar.

Sign up for an upcoming CalKIDS webinar here

CalKIDS
The first step toward college

Get Started Using Funds Partners About Need Help?

Get Started

Are you eligible?

Confirm Eligibility

Claim your money for college.

2024 Eligibility Tool

Which are you asking about? (Only one item can be chosen)

- ☒ Newborn
- ☐ Student
- ☐ Student in 1st grade or younger
- ☐ Parent/child

Next

Eligibility Tool

Claiming your CalKIDS Account



Visit
CalKIDS.org
to claim

Three (3) unique identifiers are needed to
claim your CalKIDS Account.

A photograph of a baby being held up by an adult in a living room. The baby is smiling and looking up at the adult. The background shows a bookshelf and a couch. The image has a blue tint.

Newborn Program

Eligibility for Newborns

- Each child born in California **on or after July 1, 2022, regardless of income status,** is eligible
- Birth information is provided by the California Department of Public Health
- Please allow up to 90 days after birth registration for newborns to be included in the program



CalKIDS Awards – Newborns




The State of California automatically establishes college savings accounts for all babies born in California on or after July 1, 2022, regardless of income.

- Up to \$100 for newborns born between July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023
- Up to \$175 for newborns born after July 1, 2023




Initial Seed Deposit Amounts	
Born July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023 \$25	Born after July 1, 2023 \$100
Incentives	
Claim a child's CalKIDS account	+ \$25
Link a new or existing ScholarShare 529 account	+ \$50


What is Needed to Claim a Newborn Account:




Dear parent or legal guardian of <child name>,
Congratulations! Your new baby has a CalKIDS account funded by the State of California.


CalKIDS wants to help families prepare for college, trade school or career programs, so it's giving all babies born on or after July 1, 2023, up to \$175 in a CalKIDS account, regardless of family income. It's free money that can grow over time and make a big difference when paying for future education expenses like tuition, books, computers and fees.

 **Claim your baby's \$100 account today.**
It is free and easy. It costs you nothing. It only takes a few minutes.

 **Just visit our website at CalKIDS.org.**
Use this code to help you get started: <123456789>
(Do not share this code with anyone. It is only for <John Doe>.)

 **By taking this step, a deposit of \$25 will be added to your child's CalKIDS account!**

You can stop there, or if you want to save your own money for your child's education, you can open an account with ScholarShare 529, California's official college savings plan.

 **Already have a ScholarShare 529 account for your child?**
Link it to your child's CalKIDS account and \$50 will be added to their CalKIDS account.

That's up to \$175 in free money for college or career programs!
Visit CalKIDS.org to learn more, sign up for a free online webinar, or opt out of the program.
Get started today to start building a bright future for your child.

1. Local Registration Number or unique CalKIDS code found on the letter sent by mail
2. Child's date of birth
3. Name of the county in which the child's birth was registered

Newborn awards will be processed within 90 days from the time the Board receives birth data from the California Department of Public Health.

Student Program

Eligibility for Low-Income Students

- Low-income public school students identified by the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) on Fall Academic Census Day are eligible
- LCFF eligibility generally includes:
 - ☐ Student receives meals through the National School Lunch Program
 - ☐ Family submitted an Alternative Household Income Form
 - ☐ Student participates in CalFresh, CalWORKs, FDPIR (Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations), or Medi-Cal
 - ☐ English learner status
 - ☐ Migratory, homeless, and foster students
- Student information provided by the California Department of Education



Eligibility – Determination Timeline for Students

Year 1



- Academic Year 2021 – 2022
- Eligible 1st – 12th grade public school students
- Fall Academic Census Day for the 2021 – 2022 school year

Year 2 and Beyond



- Academic Year 2022 – 2023 and subsequent years
- Eligible 1st graders*
- Fall Academic Census Day of 1st grade school year

*Allow until spring/summer for 1st graders to be enrolled in program


CalKIDS Awards – Low-Income Students

Eligible low-income public school students in California can claim:

- **\$500 initial deposit**
- **\$500 additional deposit** for eligible students identified as foster youth
- **\$500 additional deposit** for eligible students identified as unhoused



What is Needed to Claim a Student Account:



Dear parent or legal guardian of <child name>:

Congratulations! The State of California has established a CalKIDS account for your child and funded it with up to \$1,500.

CalKIDS wants to help families prepare for college, trade school or career programs, so it's giving all eligible youth up to \$1,500 in a CalKIDS account.* It's free money that can grow over time and make a big difference when paying for future education expenses like tuition, books, computers and fees.

What you need to know:
Eligible students get up to \$1,500 in a CalKIDS college savings account.

- \$500 for students with low or moderate family income
- \$500 bonus for students who are foster children
- \$500 bonus for students who are unhoused

Claim your child's account today.
It is free and easy. It costs you nothing. It only takes a few minutes.

Just visit our website at CalKIDS.org.
Use this code to help you get started: <1233456789>.
(Do not share this code with anyone. It is only for <John Doe>.)

You can stop there, or if you want to save your own money for your child's education, you can open an account with ScholarShare 529, California's official college savings plan.

Already have a ScholarShare 529 account for your child?
Link it to your child's CalKIDS account through our website so you can see their college savings in one place.

Visit CalKIDS.org to learn more, sign up for a free online webinar, or opt out of the program.
Get started today to start building a bright future for your child.

1. Statewide Student Identifier (SSID) or unique CalKIDS code found on the letter sent by mail
2. Student's date of birth
3. Name of the county where the student was enrolled on Fall Academic Census Day*

Academic Year	Grade	Fall Census Day
2021 – 22	1 – 12	October 6, 2021
2022 – 23	1	October 5, 2022

*Fall Academic Census Day falls on the first Wednesday in October of the academic year. In subsequent years after 2021-22 academic year, only eligible 1st grade students are added each year.



Requesting Your Distribution

Requesting Your Distribution



Age Requirements

- Minimum 17 years old
- Funds available until age 26



Eligible Institutions

- FAFSA participating schools
- Must be enrolled at institution



Making Request

- Requests made through CalKIDS online portal at CalKIDS.org
- Taxpayer ID is NOT required



Distribution

- May use all or portion of funds in CalKIDS account
- Funds sent directly to institution
- Treated as scholarship


Qualified CalKIDS Expenses

The funds in your CalKIDS account can be used to pay for qualified higher education expenses, such as:

- Tuition and related fees
- Books and required supplies
- Certain room and board costs
- Computer equipment

Be sure to check with your school to process your CalKIDS award scholarship.






Optional:

Opening & Linking a ScholarShare 529 Account


What is a 529 Plan?




A 529 plan is an account that allows you to invest specifically for future higher education expenses




Any earnings grow tax-deferred, which can mean more money for college



Distributions are 100% tax-free when the money is used for qualified higher education expenses



Funds can be used at eligible schools nationwide and abroad for a range of expenses, including fees, books, supplies, required equipment for enrollment, and certain room and board costs



Anyone who is a U.S. citizen or resident and at least 18 years old, with a valid Social Security Number or taxpayer identification number, can establish a 529 account

About ScholarShare529



**California's
official college
savings plan**



**More than 20-year
track record
helping families
pay for college**



**Over \$13.3 billion
in assets¹**

**One of the largest
529 plans in
the country²**



**Overseen by the
ScholarShare
Investment Board,
chaired by the
California State
Treasurer**

1. Program records as of 12/31/2023.
2. ISS 529 Industry Report 2022.

How ScholarShare 529 Works



*If the funds aren't used for qualified higher education expenses, a federal 10% penalty tax on earnings (as well as federal and state income taxes) may apply. Non-qualified withdrawals may also be subject to an additional 2.5% California tax on earnings.

Link Your Accounts



View savings in one place when you link a new or existing ScholarShare 529 account through your online portal at **CalKIDS.org**

Resources

Resources

FAMILY RESOURCES

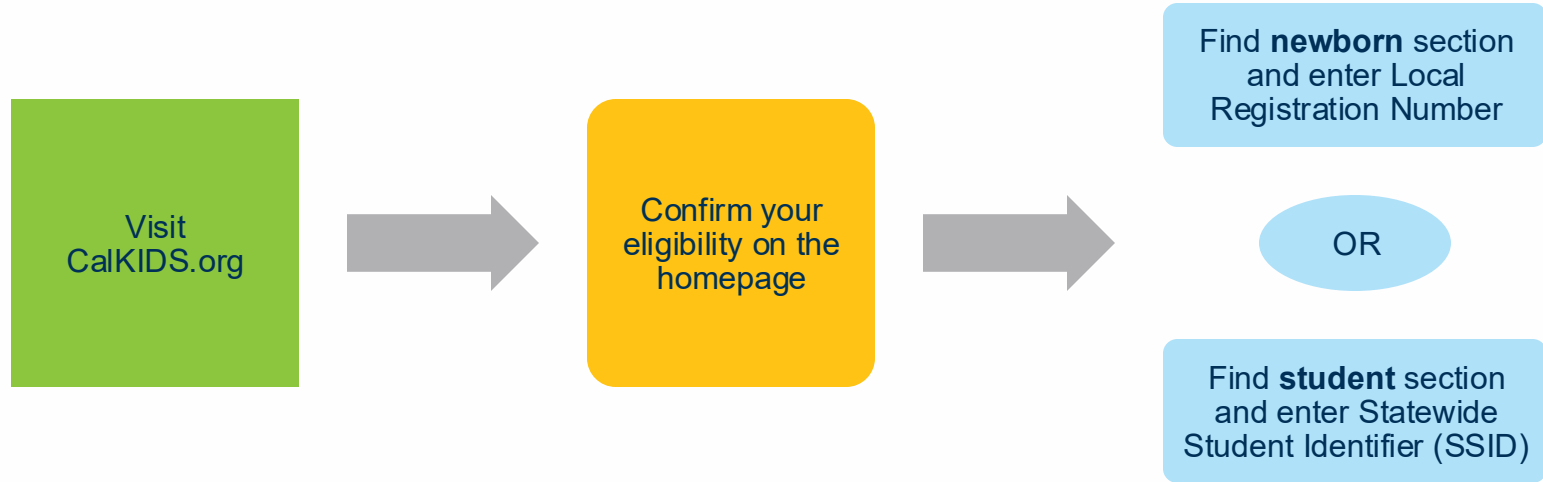
- CalKIDS.org
- YouTube page
- Social Media Platforms
- ScholarShare529.com
- Call Center: 1-888-445-2377
- Contact Us Tab

PARTNER RESOURCES

- Presentations
- Train the Trainer
- Online Toolkit
 - Flyers
 - Newsletter Content
 - Social Media Content
- Contact Us Tab

Frequently Asked Questions

How Can I Quickly Determine Eligibility?



- **Newborns:** Local Registration Number can be found on the birth certificate.
- **Students:** Statewide Student Identifier (SSID) can be found by contacting your school.

Will CalKIDS Funds Impact My Ability to Receive Financial Aid?

The CalKIDS award is considered a scholarship from the State of California. The funds should be processed according to your institution's guidelines and procedures around scholarship funds.

Please consult your financial aid office.

Will I Need to Provide a Social Security Number (SSN) or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN)?

The CalKIDS Program does not require any taxpayer identification number to participate in the program.

Can I Add Money to the CalKIDS Account?

Families cannot add money to CalKIDS accounts, BUT they can continue saving through California's official college savings plan, ScholarShare 529.

What are eligible education expenses?

Eligible education expenses include:

- **Tuition and fees:** These are the costs required for enrollment or attendance at an eligible educational institution.
- **Books and supplies:** This includes required materials for courses of instruction, such as textbooks, course books, lab supplies, and even basic items like pens and paper.
- **Computer equipment:** This includes computers, printers, and other necessary equipment for a student's education.
- **Certain room and board costs:** This is eligible if the student attends college at least half-time and the room and board are paid directly to the college or university.

What are CalKIDS eligible educational institutions?

A CalKIDS eligible educational institution is any accredited institution of higher education across the country, and even some abroad, that is eligible to participate in federal financial aid programs. ***If a school can receive federal student aid, CalKIDS funds can be used there.***

- Community colleges
- Universities
- Vocational schools
- Professional schools
- Technical schools

How to check if your school is eligible:

- Use the Federal School Code Search Tool.
- Contact your school directly: Your school's financial aid office or admissions office can confirm their eligibility to participate in federal financial aid programs.
- Check the U.S. Department of Education's Database of Accredited Post Secondary Institutions and Programs or the Federal Student Loan Program list: This can help you verify the school's eligibility.

Questions

Disclosure

Student eligibility is defined by the Local Control Funding Formula. The ScholarShare Investment Board has received your information from the California Department of Education as an eligible participant of the program.

The California Kids Investment and Development Savings Program (CalKIDS) is a children's savings account program, administered by the ScholarShare Investment Board, an agency of the state of California. CalKIDS will provide eligible participants with college savings accounts, including seed deposits and other potential incentives, to help pay for future qualified higher education expenses. To learn more about CalKIDS or opt out of the program entirely, please see the Program Terms and Conditions at CalKIDS.org. CalKIDS participants may also establish individual accounts with ScholarShare 529, California's 529 College Savings Plan.

To learn more about California's ScholarShare 529, its investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses see the Plan Description at ScholarShare529.com. Read it carefully. Investments in the Plan are neither insured nor guaranteed and there is the risk of investment loss. Check with your home state to learn if it offers tax or other benefits such as financial aid, scholarship funds or protection from creditors for investing in its own 529 plan. Consult your legal or tax professional for tax advice. If the funds aren't used for qualified higher education expenses, a federal 10% penalty tax on earnings (as well as federal and state income taxes) may apply. Non-qualified withdrawals may also be subject to an additional 2.5% California tax on earnings. TIAA-CREF Individual & Institutional Services, LLC, Member FINRA, is the distributor and underwriter for ScholarShare 529.

All social media platforms are managed by the State of California.

FPP-3312162PR-Y0124X



Resources

- [CalKIDS](#) – Information
- [SSID Eligibility Tool | CalKIDS](#) – Statewide Student Identifier Tool
- [Claim Page](#) – Claim Your Account
- [Link a 529 | CalKIDS](#) – Link a ScholarShare Account
- [Need Help? | CalKIDS](#) – CalKIDS FAQs
- [JBAY Claim your funded college savings account today!](#) – CalKIDS Information
- [JBAY Financial Aid Guide - Financial Aid Completion Resources for California Foster and Homeless Youth](#)
- *JBAY is offering technical assistance to LEAs, COEs, and child welfare agencies implementing strategies to increase the number of youth claiming their CalKIDS accounts. Contact Jessica Petrass at jessica@jbay.org for assistance.*

ALLIANCE *for* CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

*Webinar resources, including
recording and supplemental
materials, will be posted at
[https://allianceforchildrensrights.org/
resources/](https://allianceforchildrensrights.org/resources/)*

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allianceforchildrensrights.org



THANK
YOU

@allianceforchildrensrights