

HOBART INDIANA PROMISE

WELCOME TO FAMILIES

Dear Parents, Caregivers, and Youth,

We believe that every child deserves encouragement that his or her life matters. We also believe that it is our role to support the hopes and dreams our youth hold for their future.

Through the Hobart Indiana Promise, all youth in grades Kindergarten and 5th Grade, will begin to build identity through classroom lessons about college and career discovery. They'll cement that identity by becoming academically ready and establishing educational savings. Our community will gather to celebrate their aspirations when youth learn about college during College Go Week. Each of the activities that are part of the Hobart Indiana Promise will inspire hope for the future in the lives of our youth.

The benefits of instilling hope are too numerous to count; hope is the greatest predictor of future success. Yet hope cannot be nurtured without a strong support system. We hope you will become active participants and champions for all youth in our county.

We are proud to present Hobart Indiana Promise, because we strongly support efforts that make Hobart a better place to work, play and live. To us, this means encouraging and supporting the hopes and dreams of the youngest members in our community. We are enthusiastic supporters of the Hobart Indiana Promise and hope you will be too.

WHAT IS THE PROMISE?

WE PROMISE TO:

- Help shape the college and career identity of youth so they build hope for the future
- Help families start saving for the future using CollegeChoice 529 accounts
- Bring the county together to become champions for all youth

INCENTIVES AND COMMUNITY MATCHING GIFTS

- Our Promise Partners will make a \$25 investment in new accounts of students who fundraise the minimum amount.
- Youth raise \$25 for their match - see enclosure fundraiser for information.

INCENTIVES AND COMMUNITY MATCHING GIFTS

- The \$25 is provided by our enrollment sponsors and Promise Partners.
- Parents/Guardians who open the CollegeChoice 529 **DO NOT** need to invest any of their own funds to qualify for this \$25 incentive.

COMMUNITY MATCHING GIFTS

- Youth with accounts can ask their champions to invest in them.
- Community matching gifts in these accounts will only be disbursed to a qualified educational institution for use by the original beneficiary. If the primary CollegeChoice 529 is closed, a non-qualified withdrawal is made, or the beneficiary is changed, matching gift funds will be forfeited.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- *What is a 529 account?*
A 529 plan is a tax-advantaged savings plan designed to encourage saving for future college costs. Legally known as “qualified tuition plans,” 529s are sponsored by states, state agencies, or educational institutions and authorized by Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code. CollegeChoice 529 is Indiana’s plan.
- *If I sign up, who has access to the personal information I provide?*
Ascensus College Savings (CollegeChoice 529’s Program Manager) is required to treat all Account Owner and Beneficiary information confidentially. Ascensus College Savings is prohibited from using or disclosing such information, except as may be necessary to perform its obligations under the terms of its contract with the Indiana Education Savings Authority and CollegeChoice Program.
- *Can a CollegeChoice 529 account only be used in Indiana?*
You can use 529 funds at any eligible school around the country and abroad—not just in Indiana—including 2- and 4-year colleges, graduate schools (including law and medical), vocational/technical schools, and some certification programs.
- *If I move out of Indiana, does my child keep the CollegeChoice 529 account?*
You continue to own your 529 account even if you relocate outside of Indiana. However, if you relocate you will not be eligible for matching gifts in future years.
- *Can I make contributions to my child’s CollegeChoice 529 at other times? Can friends and family also continue to make gifts to my child’s account?*
You can contribute to your 529 account anytime at www.collegechoicedirect.com, and friends and family can make a gift at any time by using your unique Ugift code, which you can provide to them. Login to your account or visit Ugift529.com to learn more.
- *What if my child decides not to go to college?*
You, as the account owner can change the beneficiary to another eligible “member of the family” (as per plan rules) with no tax penalty. The \$25 enrollment incentive and any contributions you make to the account remain yours. However, any community matching gifts are forfeited if the beneficiary is changed.
- *Does a champion have to make a financial gift?*
A champion can help two ways: 1) by giving to a child’s CollegeChoice 529 account and/or 2) providing written or verbal encouragement and support for his/her dreams.