my529 Exploration Activity – Instructions



**Objective:**

* Help students understand what a my529 account is, how it can be used to save for an education, and how to manage it once they have an account.

Time:

* 30 minutes to one hour depending on your discussion.

Materials Needed:

* Computers with internet access.
* Printed copies of both worksheets below.

Activity Steps:

**1. Introduction (5 minutes):**

* Briefly explain what a my529 account is and its benefits.
* Discuss how saving for college early can help reduce future financial burdens.
* Highlight key features of my529, such as tax advantages and flexible use for qualified education expenses. Visit [my529.org/resources-for-educators/](https://my529.org/resources-for-educators/) for information.

**2. Guided Exploration (20-30 minutes):**

* Give each student the correct worksheet based on whether they have a my529 account.
* Allow students to explore the my529 website using the guided worksheet questions.
* Encourage students to take notes and ask questions if they need clarification.

**3. Discussion and Q&A (10-15 minutes):**

* Bring the class back together to discuss what they learned.
* Answer any questions and clarify any points of confusion.
* Discuss the importance of planning for college expenses and how tools like my529 can help.

**Worksheet 1** – Exploring my529 (For Students Without a 529)

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

**Instructions:** Visit [my529.org](https://my529.org) and find the answers to the following questions. Fill in the blanks as you learn.

1. **What is a my529 account?**  
   *Hint: On the main page, find* ***MENU*** *in the top right corner. In the menu, click on the header* ***Benefits of my529****.*
   1. In your own words, what is a 529 plan? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   2. What are some benefits of having a my529 account? *Hint: Under* ***Choosing my529.***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   3. How can you use your funds? *Hint: Scroll to* ***How account funds can be used*** *and click the link.*  
      \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. **How to Save**  
   *Hint: Click* ***MENU*** *again in the top right corner of the webpage, then click* ***How to Save*** *(don’t click the arrow for the dropdown).*
   1. What are the four steps to open an account? *Hint:* ***Getting started with my529 is easy****.*

Step 1: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
Step 2: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
Step 3: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
Step 4: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* 1. Did you know that you can set up a way for others to contribute to your my529 account? *Hint: Find* ***What can an account owner do?,*** *then click* ***How to gift funds: Gift Programs****.*
     1. How does the my529 Gift Program work? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
     2. What are some good examples of events to ask for my529 gifts? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **What Else Can You Learn?**   
   *Hint: Click* ***MENU*** *in the top right corner, then click on the dropdown arrow next to* ***Learn****. There are two links, click* ***College Savings Estimator*** *and* ***Contests and Scholarships****.*
   1. Use the ***College Savings Estimator*** and insert hypothetical numbers to help you explore some different scenarios. What did you learn? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   2. Explore ***Contests and Scholarships*** to see scholarship opportunities from my529. What did you learn? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Worksheet 2** – Exploring my529 (For Students With a 529)

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Instructions:** Visit [my529.org](https://my529.org) and find the answers to the following questions. Fill in the blanks.

1. **my529 account**  
   *See: On the main page, find* ***MENU*** *in the top right corner. Choose the header* ***Benefits of my529****.*
   1. In your own words, what is a 529 plan? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   2. What are some benefits of having a my529 account? *Hint: Under* ***Choosing my529****. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*
   3. How can you use your funds? *Hint: Scroll down and click* ***How account funds can be used****.*  
      \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. **How to Save**  
   *Hint: Click* ***MENU*** *again in the top right corner of the webpage, then click on the words* ***How to Save*** *(don’t click the arrow for the dropdown).*
   1. What are four ways you can withdraw funds for college? *Hint: Scroll down to* ***How to withdraw****.*

Step 1: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
Step 2: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
Step 3: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
Step 4: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* 1. Did you know that you can set up a way for others to contribute to your my529 account? *Hint: Go back to* ***How to Save*** *and scroll down to* ***How to gift funds: Gift Programs****.*
     1. How does the my529 Gift Program work? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
     2. What type of events could you ask for my529 gift funds? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **What Else Can You Learn?**   
   *Hint: Click* ***MENU*** *in the top right corner, then click on the dropdown arrow next to* ***Learn****. There are two links to click* ***College Savings Estimator*** *and* ***Contests and Scholarships****.*
   1. Explore the ***College Savings Estimator*** and insert your my529 numbers to help plan for college expenses. You’ll need to know your current amount and your contributors’ monthly additions. What did you learn? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   2. Explore ***Contests and Scholarships*** to see scholarship opportunities from my529. What did you learn? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_