



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/ 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 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**.*

a. In your own words, what is a 529 plan?

b. What are some benefits of having a my529 account? *Hint: Under **Choosing my529**.*

c. 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).*

a. What are the four steps to open an account? *Hint: **Getting started with my529 is easy**.*

Step 1:

Step 3:

Step 2:

Step 4:

b. 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**.*

i. How does the my529 Gift Program work?

ii. What are some good examples of events to ask for my529 gifts?

3. **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**.*

a. Use the **College Savings Estimator** and insert hypothetical numbers to help you explore some different scenarios. What did you learn?

b. 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 and find the answers to the following questions. Fill in the blanks.

4. **my529 account**

*See: On the main page, find **MENU** in the top right corner. Choose the header **Benefits of my529**.*

a. In your own words, what is a 529 plan?

b. What are some benefits of having a my529 account? *Hint: Under **Choosing my529**.*

c. How can you use your funds? *Hint: Scroll down and click **How account funds can be used**.*

5. **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).*

a. What are four ways you can withdraw funds for college? *Hint: Scroll down to **How to withdraw**.*

Step 1:

Step 3:

Step 2:

Step 4:

b. 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**.*

i. How does the my529 Gift Program work?

ii. What type of events could you ask for my529 gift funds?

6. **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**.*

a. 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?

b. Explore **Contests and Scholarships** to see scholarship opportunities from my529. What did you learn?
