

# News Advisory

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **PHEAA Encourages Students and Families to Save for College During National College Savings Month**

**Harrisburg, PA (September 16, 2024)** – During National College Savings Month, the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) is encouraging families to start planning for their children’s education goals and dreams early and consider PA 529 College and Career Savings Program accounts with the Pennsylvania Treasury Department (Treasury). These accounts can help families save steadily and strategically for future educational expenses.

Treasury is hosting a free financial aid webinar geared toward helping students and families plan for the cost of college on September 19 at 6:00 PM. They will show you how their investment plans can help pay for educational expenses at many career and technical schools, apprenticeship programs, and 2-year and 4-year programs.

“At PHEAA, we always encourage college-bound students to exhaust every possibility of gift aid before even considering borrowing money,” said Senator Wayne Fontana, Chairman of the PHEAA Board of Directors. “Families can begin very early on to save money for higher education and hopefully avoid the need for borrowing later on.”

“The PA 529 College & Career Savings Program is an outstanding way to save for education,” said Pennsylvania Treasurer Stacy Garrity. “The PA 529 Investment Plan has earned a Gold Rating from Morningstar, making it one of the top two programs in the entire country – and I’ve cut fees for PA 529 account owners by more than \$16.5 million. There has never been a better time to look into PA 529 and see how you can use it to help your children achieve their dreams.”

“We encourage every student and parent to do their part to learn about the resources and options available to them to one day afford higher education,” said James Steeley, PHEAA President & CEO. “Treasury offers wonderful savings programs. Attend this free webinar to learn more and get started.”

Families can register to attend the free webinar at [pa529.com/webinars](https://pa529.com/webinars). PHEAA also hosts a variety of free webinars to help families afford higher education. You can learn more and register to attend at [pheaa.org/virtual](https://pheaa.org/virtual).

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## About PHEAA

The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) was created by the Pennsylvania General Assembly in 1963 to provide affordable access to higher education for PA students and families. Through the years, PHEAA has evolved into one of the nation's leading providers of student financial aid services, including the Commonwealth's first state-based student loan program – PA Forward. PHEAA also serves millions of students through its loan guaranty, loan servicing, financial aid processing, and other programs.

PHEAA conducts student loan servicing operations nationally as American Education Services (AES).

PHEAA's press releases are accessible at <https://www.pheaa.org/about/press-releases/>.