



FIONA MA, CPA

TREASURER

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

May 5, 2023

Pacific Law Academy
Attention: School Counselor
1621 Brookside Rd
Stockton, CA 95207-7804

Dear School Counselor:

The State of California recently launched the California Kids Investment and Development Savings Program (CalKIDS) to help as many California children prepare financially for a postsecondary education. CalKIDS provides all newborns up to \$100, and eligible low-income public school students enrolled in first through 12th grade up to \$1,500, to start saving for college and career training. Families are encouraged to build on this investment by opening and contributing to their own account with ScholarShare 529, California's official 529 college savings plan.

Students in your graduating high school class may be eligible to use this benefit immediately upon enrollment at an institution of higher education. California public school students who were enrolled in first through 12th grade during the 2021-22 academic year and designated as low-income by the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) on Fall Academic Census Day were automatically enrolled in CalKIDS.

To access their CalKIDS account, eligible low-income students or their parents will need to register at www.calkids.org, which requires key information, including the child's Statewide Student Identifier (SSID) or a unique code included in a notification letter that the family has received or will be receiving soon. **We request that your school(s) make SSIDs accessible to parents and students.** When ready, CalKIDS funds can be used for expenses such as tuition, fees, books, supplies, and certain room and board costs.

This statewide initiative is administered by the ScholarShare Investment Board, an agency of the State of California, and managed out of the State Treasurer's Office.

ScholarShare 529 and CalKIDS can make college or career training a reality for millions of children and families throughout our state. Studies have shown that children with \$500 or less saved for college are three times more likely to enroll in college, and four times more likely to graduate, than children with no savings at all. CalKIDS builds upon this research by providing families a starting point for growing assets and working to make higher education attainable.

To ensure all eligible families are aware of this important program, we seek your help in sharing this valuable information with families in your communities.

If your campus is interested in informing students and their families about CalKIDS, we welcome support in any or all of the following ways:

- Hosting an informational webinar
- Sharing information through your digital communications, such as e-newsletters, website, and social media
- Distributing program flyers throughout your campus

To help facilitate the dissemination of Program information, we have made available a comprehensive online toolkit which contains various materials, in English and Spanish, for use. The toolkit can be accessed on the Partners tab at CalKIDS.org. If you have additional questions or would like further details, contact CalKIDS staff directly at CalKIDSAdmin@calkids.org or (916) 651-6380.

Thank you for your assistance in ensuring that all eligible families know about this exciting new program.

In Peace and Friendship,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Fiona Ma', written in a cursive style.

FIONA MA, C.P.A.
California State Treasurer