



THE COLLEGE TUITION BENEFIT®

HELPING FAMILIES PAY FOR COLLEGE

EMPLOYEE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I sign up?

You may already be pre-registered for The College Tuition Benefit® (CTB) through Highmark. Before beginning the registration process below, please check your email for a "Setup my Account" notice from Tuition Rewards (support@sagescholars.com).

If you cannot find the Setup my Account email, or the email has been deleted, you can still register for CTB. Go to highmark.collegetuitionbenefit.com, select Register Now and follow the prompts to complete registration.

Please note that if you fail to register a child in a timely manner, a child may lose eligibility. Participating colleges and universities will make no exception for this situation.

What if I do not have an email address or do not supply one?

An email address is required as part of the registration process. You may use the email address of a spouse instead of your own, if desired.

Where does the money come from to pay for Tuition Rewards?

Tuition Rewards are a guaranteed minimum discount off the full "list price" of tuition as opposed to monetary reimbursement. Participating schools have entered into a contractual agreement to reduce their tuition by the amount of Tuition Rewards Points submitted. One Tuition Rewards Point = \$1 reduction in full tuition. Tuition Rewards are never provided in cash.

Who can I register for Tuition Rewards?

You can sponsor students who are part of your immediate or extended family – children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, stepchildren and godchildren. You cannot sponsor your neighbor's or co-worker's children when there is no family connection. You cannot use Tuition Rewards toward your own education, or toward the education of a spouse, partner, or child who has already started 12th grade.



Is there any limit to the number of students I can register?

There is no limit to the number of students you can register. We expect and hope you continue to register children as your family grows. To do this simply log in to your account by going to www.highmark.collegetuitionbenefit.com and selecting "Log in to Your Existing Account", click-on "Add Student" and complete the necessary information.

What is the maximum amount of Tuition Rewards I can use per child?

Participating schools honor submitted Tuition Rewards Points as a guaranteed minimum discount off the published price of tuition. Tuition Rewards are "capped" at a maximum 25 percent discount, divided evenly over four years. Tuition Rewards may be combined with other financial aid. A handful of participating colleges are still operating under pre-2004 contracts that limit the maximum reward to \$13,800 – \$15,600. A list of participating colleges and universities is available online when you log in to your account.

Note there are Member Tuition Rewards and Student Tuition Rewards.

- Member Tuition Rewards are in your account and can be used in any amount, for any sponsored student.
- Student Tuition Rewards can only be used by that student and are non-transferable. 500 Student Tuition Rewards Points are awarded at the time the member registers the student.

What are my responsibilities?

You must register an eligible student before August 31 of the year he or she enters 12th grade.

Additionally, Member Tuition Rewards are in your name until you pledge Tuition Rewards Points to a sponsored student. Tuition Rewards must be pledged to a student before August 31 of the year the student enters 12th grade. While a registered student is in 11th grade, starting in May you will begin to receive emails reminding you to log in to your account and pledge some or all of your Tuition Rewards if you want to use them for that student. You must pledge these Tuition Rewards before August 31 prior to the student entering 12th grade. After that deadline, no additional Tuition Rewards Points can be pledged. If you do not take this action, the amount of Tuition Rewards Points a student can use toward participating colleges at the time of application is drastically limited.

Also shown in your account is a list of member colleges. Within ten days of when a student sends an application to a member college(s), you must visit your account and select the college(s) to which the student has applied. This lets CTB know to notify the college(s) of the student's Tuition Rewards Points.

What if I pledge Tuition Rewards and the student does not use them or does not attend a SAGE Scholars participating college or university?

On June 15 following 12th grade, a member can go into his or her account, retrieve the unused student Tuition Rewards Points and put them back in their account to be used for another student.



Are Tuition Rewards taxable?

No. IRS Publication 970, "Tax Benefits for Education," states: "You do not have to include a qualified tuition reduction in your income." Tuition Rewards are discounts and meet the qualified tuition reduction definition.

Do the participating SAGE Scholars colleges and universities have any obligation to accept students with Tuition Rewards?

No. The schools will observe their normal student acceptance policies.

How do Tuition Rewards affect financial aid qualification?

Tuition Rewards are considered guaranteed minimum financial aid. All students are encouraged to apply for financial aid.

The following example shows how Tuition Rewards complement financial aid. Let's say a student's family has 20,000 Tuition Rewards Points; because Tuition Rewards are divided evenly over four years, the student has earned a guaranteed minimum discount of \$5,000 per year. The student applies for financial aid at three of our participating schools (a very common occurrence):

- the first school awards \$10,000 per year in total aid
- the second awards \$4,000 per year
- and the third awards no financial aid

The first school has more than met its obligation of a \$5,000 per year discount. The second college will have to increase their award to at least \$5,000 per year. The third school will have to provide \$5,000 of financial aid.

Can an eligible student be sponsored by more than one person?

Yes. Tuition Rewards Points can be pooled together for the same student as long as the student is registered under both accounts. Tuition Rewards are "capped" at a maximum 25 percent discount, divided evenly over four years. Rewards may be combined with other financial aid. A handful of participating colleges are still operating under pre-2004 contracts that limit the maximum reward to \$13,800 – \$15,600. A list of participating colleges and universities is available online when you log in to your account.

What happens if I leave my current employer or I am terminated?

If you leave employment, you will be vested in all Tuition Rewards you have earned up to your last date of employment, and you can continue to manage your account directly through CTB. If you are then employed by another employer with Highmark coverage that offers CTB, you can then begin to earn Tuition Rewards if you enroll in the Highmark health plan.

Who sees the names of sponsored students and how are the names used?

CTB's privacy statement dictates that the only people who see the names of sponsored students are the schools. Starting when a student is in 9th grade, the schools can view the names and may begin sending recruitment materials. The process is similar to what most families experience in 11th grade when students take the SAT or ACT. Schools never see the amount of Tuition Rewards a member or student has until the Tuition Rewards are pledged prior to 12th grade, and then they will only see the Tuition Rewards pledged to that student.

Can Tuition Rewards be used for graduate school?

No. Tuition Rewards can only be used for full-time, undergraduate education, beginning with a student's freshman year.

Do Tuition Rewards go with me into retirement? What happens if I pass away?

Yes, Tuition Rewards go with you into retirement. You may continue to register children as family grows. If you pass away, your executor can move the Tuition Rewards into the name of a guardian for the students.

What if I have questions about my account?

If you have any difficulty accessing your account or have any questions, you can reach The College Tuition Benefit® by phone, Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Eastern time at (844) 244-4086, or via email to highmarksupport@CollegeTuitionBenefit.com.

Important deadlines

There are two very important deadlines that must be met for members to utilize their Tuition Rewards Points.

Adding Students and Pledging Tuition Rewards.

- Students must be registered by the member by August 31 of the year when the student begins 12th grade.
- The last day for pledging earned Tuition Rewards to a student is August 31 of the year the student begins 12th grade.
 - This is also the last day for a student to earn any Student Tuition Rewards from any source.

Submitting Student Tuition Rewards to member schools.

- Using the college and university list available in the member's account, the member must submit a



Tuition Rewards statement to any member school(s) a registered student applies to within ten days of the application being submitted.