

**SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

RESOLUTION NO. 3227

“Recognition of September 2021 as College Savings Month”

California has long been a pioneer in postsecondary education, supporting and founding hundreds of institutions across our state. Students have access to everything from renowned public and private universities to an extraordinary network of community colleges and career technical schools. The cost of college is high, but through careful planning and with help from programs such as ScholarShare 529 - California's official college savings plan - it is possible to build up savings to lighten the burden. By making small steps now to put money into savings accounts, parents can see their money grow and help reduce the long-term indebtedness which going to college now entails.

WHEREAS, 529 college savings plans provide long-term savings or investment accounts to help children and their families save for the future, specifically for a postsecondary education; and,

WHEREAS, 529 college savings plans are important tools for families, offering a diverse range of investment options, tax-deferred growth, and withdrawals free of state and federal taxes when those withdrawals are used for qualified higher education expenses such as tuition, fees, books, computer equipment, certain room and board costs, and required supplies; and

WHEREAS, while the first college savings plans were developed by states in 1988 as innovative programs designed to help families and students save for higher education expenses, it was not until the enactment of Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code by Congress in 1996 that college savings plans began to rapidly gain popularity across the country; and

WHEREAS, today, 49 states and the District of Columbia offer 529 college savings plans, over 13.6 million 529 accounts have been opened, more than \$980 billion have been saved for future higher education expenses, and more than one million students nationwide have withdrawn funds from 529 accounts to help pay higher education expenses; and

WHEREAS, the ScholarShare 529 College Savings Plan, which has served as California's official state-sponsored 529 college savings plan since its launch in 1999, has grown to more than \$11 billion in total plan assets held in over 350,000 ScholarShare 529 accounts; and

WHEREAS, the ScholarShare 529 College Savings Plan has helped students meet their higher education goals with over \$550 million withdrawn in 2020 for qualified higher education expenses and funds distributed directly to over 1,058 colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, in California, from 2007-2008 through 2017-2018, tuition rates have steadily increased, but through proactive planning, a higher education is attainable; and

WHEREAS, when Americans are burdened with student loan debt, they are not able to buy homes, cars, and other products that boost our economy and build personal wealth; and

WHEREAS, college savings plans, such as the ScholarShare 529 College Savings Plan, help families to limit or eliminate future student loan debt by helping them save for future higher education expenses; and

WHEREAS, the contributions families make today pay off in the form of an increased earning potential for their children in the future, with a college graduate earning 50 percent more than a high school graduate according to the United States Census Bureau; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that even children with college savings of less than \$500 are three times more likely to enroll in higher education, and four times more likely to graduate, than those without a college savings account.

WHEREAS, ScholarShare 529, California's state-sponsored 529 College Savings Plan, is offering the Matching Grant Program, to families with children 14 years of age or younger with a dollar-for-dollar matching grant up to \$200 to help kickstart the college planning process; and,

WHEREAS, September is recognized nationally as 529 College Savings Month to help raise awareness across the country of the importance of saving for college with the help of 529 college savings plans; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) is committed to reducing racial inequities and opportunity gaps in educational attainment, by:

1. Working with California's ScholarShare Investment Board to establish a partnership and share ScholarShare 529 resources beginning in 2021-22;
2. Communicating the "Matching Grant Program" resources to eligible families with children in Pre-K-8 grades via the annual enrollment packets, webinars, district social media platforms, and, after school programs;
3. Communicating to district employees the benefits of 529 College Savings Plans;
4. Communicating to our community the relationship between saving for college and its alignment to LCAP goal 1, College and Career Readiness, which states:

100% of SCUSD students will graduate college and career ready with a wide array of postsecondary options and a clear postsecondary plan. Growth in Graduation Rate and College/Career Readiness will be accelerated for Students with Disabilities, English Learners, African American students, American Indian or Alaska Native students, Hispanic/Latino students, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander students, Foster Youth, Homeless Youth, and other student groups with gaps in outcomes until gaps are eliminated

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education on this 16th day of September by the following vote:

AYES: _____
NOES: _____
ABSTAIN: _____
ABSENT: _____

ATTESTED TO:

Jorge A. Aguilar,
Secretary of the Board of Education

Christina Prtichett,
President of the Board of Education