

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Getting Started2
VEST Benefits3
VEST Distributions.....5
Financial Aid.....6
Tax Information12

VEST CHECKLIST

- Complete the Student Verification Form, and mail it to us at **9001 Arboretum Parkway, Richmond, Virginia 23236**, or fax it to us at our toll-free fax number, **1-866-757-1295**. You may use the enclosed envelope for your convenience. Please ensure that we receive the Student Verification Form before requesting any distribution to a higher education institution.
- Both the account owner and the beneficiary (student) must sign the Student Verification Form.
- Submit a Distribution Request Form indicating the exact amount of the distribution you are requesting or check the appropriate box if you want the total balance of funds in the account. You may mail it to us at **9001 Arboretum Parkway, Richmond, Virginia 23236**, or fax it toll free to **1-866-757-1295**.
- Submit a separate Distribution Request Form for each individual payee and each individual account.
- Remember that distributions are made subject to the pending settlement period. Be sure to submit your distribution far enough in advance to ensure funds are distributed by your required due date.
- Call us toll free at 1-888-567-0540 if you have any questions, or contact us at vcspinfo@virginia529.com.

**Virginia Education
Savings Trust
2011-2012 Distribution
Guide**

This guide is intended to help you and your family understand how you can get the maximum benefit from your Virginia Education Savings Trust (VEST) account.

Please read this information carefully.

This booklet provides important information about the federal financial aid reporting requirements and addresses the most frequently asked questions about using your benefits and processing payments. Please also refer to your VEST Program Description, which is the legal document that governs your VEST account. If you have any additional questions or special circumstances, please call us toll free at 1-888-567-0540, or visit our website at Virginia529.com.

On behalf of everyone at the Virginia College Savings Plan, congratulations and best wishes for the future!

GETTING STARTED

How do I begin withdrawing money from my Virginia Education Savings Trust account?

Complete the VEST Student Verification Form. Both the account owner and the beneficiary must sign this form. This form authorizes us to disclose the student's name and social security number and school ID to higher education institutions, if necessary, to make payment arrangements. In addition, it is our policy to transmit the student's social security number and school ID when making payments directly to a higher education institution. This is necessary to ensure proper credit to the student's account. No VEST distributions will be made until a VEST Student Verification Form is received by VCSP. If you have multiple VEST accounts for one beneficiary you are only required to send in one Student Verification Form.

What is the Student Identification Number?

The Student Identification Number is the number assigned to your student by his or her college or university. This is the number that is used to identify your student at his or her school. Many schools assign this number to your student in the acceptance letter. This number is used in place of the student's social security number. If the Student Verification Form is received without the Student Identification Number, it may delay distributions and result in your student being dropped from class rosters.

Complete the VEST Distribution Request Form. We will need a separate Distribution Request Form for each individual payee and for each individual VEST account. For instance, if you want us to pay tuition directly to the school and reimburse you for textbook costs, you will need to fill out two separate forms. You will also need to indicate on the Distribution Request Form the exact amount of the distribution requested. If you prefer to request the total balance of funds in the account, check the appropriate box on the Distribution Request Form and the full account value will be remitted to you. Please be aware that if the requested dollar amount is within five (\$5) dollars of the account balance, the full balance remaining in the account will be paid to the designated payee.

You may fax completed forms to us toll free at 1-866-757-1295, or mail them to us at 9001 Arboretum Parkway, Richmond, Virginia 23236. Please remember that for tax purposes it is your responsibility to maintain adequate documentation indicating that the funds were used for qualified higher education expenses.

I am eligible to begin using my VEST account but I am not going to college right away. What are my options?

VEST beneficiaries have at least ten years after the projected high school graduation date to use VEST account benefits. In addition, any years served as an active-duty member of any branch of the United States Armed Services are added to the ten-year limit. A purchaser may request an extension of the ten-year limit when the time period is about to expire.

In addition, a VEST account beneficiary may be changed to a member of the previous beneficiary's family (see "Member of the Family" definition in the VEST Program Description). VEST accounts may also be cancelled at any time. The account owner must pay income tax on

the earnings portion of the refund, and the earnings are subject to an additional tax of 10 percent, which must be reported on the taxpayer's federal tax return.

If an account is cancelled for a reason other than the beneficiary's death, disability or receipt of a scholarship, deductions taken from the account owner's Virginia taxable income as a result of VEST contributions will have to be recaptured in the account owner's Virginia taxable income in the year the non-qualified distribution is received.

Will the Virginia College Savings Plan notify my school that I have a VEST account?

No. We will not notify your school that you have a VEST account. It is your responsibility to ensure that the invoice from the school is paid by the due date. You can request that funds be paid directly to you before you actually receive the invoice, allowing you to make payment directly to the school once you receive the bill. You can also request that we pay the school directly. Please keep in mind the pending settlement dates to ensure that your payment will not be late. (See, "How long will it take to process my distribution after you receive my VEST Distribution Request Form?" on page 5.)

VEST BENEFITS

What are qualified higher education expenses?

These are expenses allowed under Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code, which governs college savings programs like VEST. In order for your distributions to be tax free, you must comply with federal definitions and regulations provided under Section 529. Generally, qualified higher education expenses include the following:

1. Tuition, all mandatory fees, and the costs of textbooks, computers **required** for the enrollment or attendance of a designated beneficiary at an eligible educational institution. **Please note: Repayment of student loans does not meet the federal definition of a qualified expense.**
2. The cost of room and board of a designated beneficiary for any academic period during which the designated beneficiary is enrolled at least half time in a degree, certificate, or other program that leads to a recognized educational credential awarded by an eligible educational institution. The allowable amount of room and board expenses for students living on campus is the actual amount invoiced by the eligible educational institution. For students who live off campus or at home with a parent or guardian, the allowable amount for room and board expenses is the applicable room and board amount for that period used by the eligible educational institution in determining its cost of attendance. You should be able to obtain this information directly from the higher education institution. You may also be able to find this information on the National Center for Education Statistics' website at www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator. VEST does not endorse this web site or control any information provided on the site.

3. Also included are expenses for special needs services in the case of a special needs beneficiary, which are incurred in connection with enrollment or attendance at an eligible educational institution.

How much will VEST pay?

VEST will pay directly to the payee the amount you request on the VEST Distribution Request Form, up to the balance of your account. The student or his or her family is responsible for any additional expenses not covered by a VEST account distribution.

What schools are eligible to receive VEST distributions?

In order to be tax-free, Federal law (Internal Revenue Code Section 529) requires that VEST distributions be made for qualified higher education expenses incurred while a student is enrolled at an “eligible educational institution”. Generally, this means any accredited post-secondary educational institution offering credit toward a bachelor’s degree, an associate’s degree, a graduate-level or professional degree, or another recognized post-secondary credential. The institution must be eligible to participate in federal student financial aid programs under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965. Schools that are eligible for these programs will have a “Federal School Code.” A listing of eligible schools is on the U.S. Department of Education’s website, fafsa.ed.gov, under the School Code Search section. Higher education institutions that choose not to participate in federal student financial aid programs or that are not accredited do not meet the definition of “eligible educational institution” for purposes of qualified distributions from VEST.

In addition, in order for distributions for room and board expenses to be qualified, the student must be enrolled at least half time at an eligible educational institution.

Can VEST distributions be used at private career schools and foreign schools?

VEST distributions may be made (or you may be reimbursed for payments made) to certain private career and foreign schools that meet the federal definition of an “eligible educational institution.” All schools that meet this federal definition have been assigned a “Federal School Code.” You may determine if a private career or foreign school has a code by visiting the Department of Education website noted in the previous question. If you do not have Internet access, please contact us toll-free at 1-888-567-0540 for more information.

Will VEST make payments to a third-party monthly payment plan administrator?

VEST will make payments to any payee indicated on the VEST Distribution Request Form. In order to make monthly payments, you will need to submit a separate VEST Distribution Request Form for each month’s payment. Please keep in mind that these distributions will be subject to the VEST pending settlement periods, which may make it difficult to meet a monthly payment

schedule. Therefore, we recommend that distributions to accommodate this type of monthly payment be requested, in advance, on a quarterly or semi-annual basis. Because costs other than qualified higher education expenses, such as transportation, may be included in monthly payment plan budgets, please review the expenses carefully to ensure that the entire distribution will be qualified. **Proof of payment to the third-party administrator is not adequate documentation to establish qualified higher education expenses. You should retain copies of paid invoices or other supporting documentation as proof of the qualified expenses.**

VEST DISTRIBUTIONS

What documentation must I provide to request distributions from a VEST account?

You do not need to provide documentation to request a distribution from a VEST account, although you must submit a Distribution Request Form. You must maintain adequate documentation of your expenses to show that your distributions were for qualified expenses because you are responsible for determining whether your distributions are qualified or non-qualified. Non-qualified distributions will be subject to an additional tax of 10 percent of the earnings. This penalty is reported on the taxpayer's federal tax return. The earnings portion of a non-qualified distribution is taxable as ordinary income. VEST will issue an IRS Form 1099-Q (Qualified Tuition Program Payments) reflecting this earnings amount for tax purposes.

Examples of documentation you may wish to retain for tax purposes include your invoices for tuition, fees, and room and board (for those students living on campus or in institutional housing) and receipts or other proof of payment for textbooks and equipment, such as computers. In addition to these receipts, you should retain other supporting documentation, such as a copy of a page from a college catalog, a copy of a Web page, or correspondence from the institution establishing that the expense is required for the student's enrollment or attendance at the institution.

How long will it take to process my distribution after you receive my VEST Distribution Request Form?

VEST Distribution requests in good standing received on any business day of the week prior to close of business will generally be withdrawn from the applicable Portfolio within three business days of receipt. The Net Asset Value used to determine the number of Units of a Portfolio to be liquidated will be the Net Asset Value calculated for the applicable Portfolio the same business day the distribution amount is withdrawn from the Portfolio. The VCSP is not responsible for market fluctuations during the Pending Settlement Period. The VCSP, at its sole discretion, may modify this settlement schedule without prior notice.

VEST is not responsible for payment of any higher education expenses that exceed the current balance of a VEST account at the time a distribution is made. When you redeem units of a portfolio, they may be worth more or less than the amount you invested. VEST is not responsible for market fluctuations between the time the VEST Distribution Request Form is received and the time the funds are actually withdrawn from the portfolio.

How are payments made?

You must submit a Distribution Request Form for each distribution, indicating the payee. In most cases, we make payments either electronically, or by check directly to the school for application to your account if you have requested direct payment to the school. If we are reimbursing you, or advancing you funds for eligible educational expenses, we will send a check to the requested payee at the address noted on the VEST Distribution Request Form.

How does VEST make payments if I enroll part time?

We will pay the amount indicated on your Distribution Request Form up to the balance of your account. Remember that room and board costs are qualified expenses only if the student is enrolled at least half-time at an eligible educational institution.

What if I withdraw after add-drop?

If you withdraw after payments have been made from your VEST account, your school may send you a refund of all or part of your VEST distribution, depending on the refund policy of the particular school. Any such refund could then be considered a non-qualified distribution if you do not have additional qualified expenses in an amount sufficient to offset your refund. Keep in mind that non-qualified distributions will be subject to an additional tax of 10 percent of the earnings. This penalty is reported on the taxpayer's federal income tax return. The earnings portion of a non-qualified distribution is taxable as ordinary income.

FINANCIAL AID

How will my VEST account affect my application for financial aid?

For need-based financial aid, VEST contract benefits are reported on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) if the contract is owned by the student's parent whose assets are reported on the FAFSA. (The FAFSA is the application most colleges and universities use for determining federal need-based financial aid eligibility.) Instructions for completing the FAFSA indicate that students who must report parental information should report all qualified educational benefits or education savings accounts owned by the student or their parents, including "529 college savings plans" (VEST, CollegeAmerica or CollegeWealth) and the "refund value of 529 state prepaid tuition plans" (VPEP). Approximately 5.6% of the value of Section 529 college savings plans and prepaid tuition plans will be included in the calculation of federal financial aid eligibility.

Section 529 accounts owned by dependent students will be treated as parental assets. In addition, tax-free distributions from Section 529 accounts are not considered income in the following year's financial aid determination. The value of VEST accounts owned by someone whose assets are not reported on the FAFSA (such as grandparents, aunts, or uncles) is NOT reported on the FAFSA.

Section 529 account distributions should not affect the beneficiary's receipt of merit-based financial aid (academic or athletic scholarships, for example). Ownership of a VEST account also will not be considered when determining a student's eligibility for Virginia financial aid. VEST accounts do not affect a student's eligibility for a Virginia Tuition Assistance Grant for Virginia residents who attend an eligible, independent, nonprofit institution of higher education in Virginia.

What VEST account value should be reported on the FAFSA?

If the VEST account must be reported on the FAFSA, the value to be reported is the current account balance or market value as of the date of reporting. If parental assets are being reported on the FAFSA and there are other VPEP, VEST, CollegeAmerica or CollegeWealth accounts owned by the parents, those account values must also be reported, even if the beneficiary is different from the student on whose behalf the FAFSA is being completed. For VPEP contracts, the contract value is defined as the "refund" value of any benefits. This is the amount that would be received if the account were closed and the owner received a refund. For VPEP, this amount is the total of payments made minus any benefits already used plus interest at the reasonable rate of return, compounded annually, on the amount of payments made (for accounts owned more than three years).

How can I get the correct account value(s) to report on the FAFSA?

You can access the most current account values for all of your VEST and/or VPEP accounts online at **Virginia529.com**. If you do not have access to the Web, or if you have trouble accessing your account, please call us toll free at 1-888-567-0540 and a customer service representative can assist you in retrieving this information.

Once you have accessed our website, follow the instructions as outlined in the next several website screen prints.

Go to Virginia529.com and select "My Account."

Virginia529 College Savings Plan

Enroll Now My Account

Home Programs About VA529 News & Events Resources Contact Us Customer Service

The Virginia Prepaid Education Program is open now through March 31, 2011!

Learn more about VPEP

4 programs to choose from:

- Virginia Prepaid Education ProgramSM
- Virginia Education Savings TrustSM
- CollegeAmericaSM
- CollegeWealthSM

Program Guide

view Online download PDF request by Mail

Affordable, Flexible, Tax-Advantaged College Savings

Calculate Your College Savings

Welcome to the new Virginia 529 website!

The Cost of Waiting

Enter your Login ID and Password and select "Login."

Virginia529 College Savings Plan

Secure Login

Please enter your Login ID and Password to access your account.

Login ID:

Password:

Login Forgot Password?

If you have forgotten your Login ID or your login becomes disabled, please contact a customer service representative at Toll-Free (888) 567-0540.

McAfee SECURE TESTED 04-JAN

Establish Access

If you do not have a Login ID or password, please establish your online access.

The security of your personal information is important to us!

Diligent efforts are made to ensure the security of Commonwealth of Virginia (COV) systems. Before you use this Web site to conduct business with the COV, please ensure your personal computer is not infected with malicious code that collects your personal information. This code is referred to as a [keylogger](#). The way to protect against this is to maintain current [Anti-Virus](#) and [security patches](#).

Before proceeding, please read the Virginia College Savings Plan's [Privacy Policy](#).

Select "View Accounts" and then "Contract Summary" as shown below.

The screenshot shows the Virginia529 College Savings Plan website. The navigation menu includes: Enroll, View Accounts, Account Maintenance, Material Request, Make a Payment, and Contact Us. A dropdown menu under "View Accounts" is open, showing options: Contract Summary, Transaction History, Distribution Information, and Payment Information. A red arrow points to "Contract Summary" with the text "Select 'View Accounts' and 'Contract Summary'".

Welcome

The Virginia College Savings Plan online account access has a new look and enhancements. You may now create or change automatic contributions to your accounts, or make one time contributions!

To view additional account information, please select an account number below.

Virginia Education Savings Trust Summary

Account	Beneficiary Name	Portfolio	Today's NAV	Current Value
XXXX	Student X	Alleghany	12.882920	\$.00
XXXX	Student Y	Eastern Shore	10.411787	\$48.91
Total Virginia Education Savings Trust Value				\$48.91

Virginia Prepaid Education Program Summary

Account	Beneficiary Name	Product	Status	Next Payment Due	First Payout Date
XXXX	Student X	2 Yr University Plan	Active	02/01/20/XX	08/01/20/XX

Go to the "Select a Beneficiary" section and select "All Beneficiaries." Account values must be submitted on the FAFSA for all 529 accounts the parent owns. This includes both VPEP and VEST accounts for other beneficiaries.

The screenshot shows the "Account Selection" section of the Virginia529 website. It features a dropdown menu for "Select a Contract:" with the value "VEST Account Alleghany for Student X,XXXX". Below this is a green "Select" button. Another dropdown menu for "Select a Beneficiary:" is open, showing options: Student X, Student Y, and All Beneficiaries. A red arrow points to "All Beneficiaries" with the text "Select 'All Beneficiaries'". Below this is another green "Select" button. A red arrow points to this button with the text "After selecting 'All Beneficiaries' as shown above, click here to proceed."

The following example reflects the total amount to be reported on the FAFSA if you only have one VPEP account. (Please see the next example if you have multiple accounts.)



[HOME](#) [EXIT](#)

[Enroll](#) [View Accounts](#) [Account Maintenance](#) [Material Request](#) [Make a Payment](#) [Contact Us](#)

Account Summary

Account Owner

Name:	Account Owner XX
Address:	XXX Main Street
Day Phone:	(XXX) XXX-XXXX
Evening Phone:	(XXX) XXX-XXXX

Virginia Prepaid Education Program

Beneficiary: Student X

Account Number	Product	Unit Price	Unit Balance	Account Value
XXXX	4 Yr University Plan			\$19310.69
Total Virginia Prepaid Education Program Value for Student X				\$19310.69

Total Virginia Prepaid Education Program Value for all Account Owner Beneficiaries	\$19310.69
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This is the total of all VPEP accounts

Total Value for All Accounts	\$19310.69
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This is the amount that should be entered on your FAFSA form

[Select another Beneficiary](#)

This example represents an account owner who must report multiple VPEP and VEST accounts. Use the amount shown under “Total Value of All Accounts.” Once you have recorded the values, select “Exit” to Logout of your account access.

Account Summary

Account Owner


Name:	Account Owner XX
Address:	XXX Main Street
Day Phone:	(XXX) XXX-XXXX
Evening Phone:	(XXX) XXX-XXXX

Virginia Prepaid Education Program

Beneficiary: Student X

Account Number	Product	Unit Price	Unit Balance	Account Value
XXXX	2 Yr University Plan			\$7829.75
Total Virginia Prepaid Education Program Value for Student X				\$7829.75

Total Virginia Prepaid Education Program Value for all Account Owner Beneficiaries	\$7829.75
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Total of all VPEP Accounts 

Virginia Education Savings Trust

Beneficiary: Student X

Account Number	Product	Unit Price	Unit Balance	Account Value
XXXX	Alleghany	\$12.882920	.0000	\$.00
XXXX	Eastern Shore	\$10.411787	4.6972	\$48.91
Total Virginia Education Savings Trust Value for Student X				\$48.91

Total Virginia Education Savings Trust Value for all Account Owner Beneficiaries	\$48.91
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Total of all VEST Accounts 

Total Value for All Accounts	\$7878.66
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Total of both VPEP and VEST accounts that should be entered on the FAFSA form. 

Both VEST and VPEP account values will vary due to changes in interest rates and market conditions, as well as the passage of time. Therefore, the value you see on statements you receive from us will, very likely, be different from the value you will see each time you review your account balances on our website. The FAFSA reporting requirement is the value of your accounts on the date you actually complete the form.

What happens if I receive a full or partial scholarship?

If you receive a scholarship, you have a number of options. You may use your VEST account for future years of undergraduate or graduate study or for qualified higher education expenses not covered by the scholarship. The account owner may also request a refund from VEST up to the amount of the scholarship. Please keep in mind that you will need to retain documentation of the scholarship in the event of a scholarship refund for tax purposes. Scholarship refunds are penalty-free, but the taxpayer will still have to pay ordinary income tax on the earnings portion of the scholarship refund.

If the student receives a full or partial athletic scholarship that is governed by NCAA regulations, a payment to the higher education institution from VEST may affect that scholarship. Please contact the higher education institution as soon as possible to determine if a payment from VEST will affect the student's situation.

What is a scholarship?

Scholarships are grants awarded to students for academic, athletic, musical or other special abilities. Scholarships also include certain tuition remission benefits for the children of college or university employees. Scholarships include appointments to a United States military academy. Scholarships do not include need-based financial aid, including student loans or work-study programs. Please also see "What are tax-free scholarships?"

TAX INFORMATION

Do I need to keep any records of my expenses?

Yes. You must keep appropriate documentation (copies of invoices, meal plan contracts, or textbook receipts, for example) for at least three years for tax purposes.

Will I receive a 1099?

For any tax year during which there was a distribution from your Virginia College Savings Plan account, an IRS Form 1099-Q will be issued for your account. If the distribution was made directly to the beneficiary or to a school, the 1099-Q must be sent to the beneficiary; all other 1099-Q's will be sent to the account owner. **If your beneficiary's adjusted qualified higher education expenses equal or exceed your Virginia Education Savings Trust account distribution, you do not need to report the earnings on your federal tax return.**

Note: You cannot use the same higher education expense to qualify for more than one tax benefit. For example, you may not use tax-free distributions from both a Virginia College Savings Plan Section 529 account and a Coverdell Education Savings Account for the same expense, such as tuition. Please see IRS Publication 970, “Tax Benefits for Education,” available at www.irs.gov, or by calling the IRS toll free at 1-800-829-3676, for specific examples.

Are my distributions taxable?

All distributions from Section 529 accounts that do not exceed the amount of adjusted qualified higher education expenses are tax free at the federal level. In Virginia, qualified Section 529 distributions are also state-tax free. If you live in a state other than Virginia, please check with your state’s department of taxation to determine whether qualified distributions from another state’s Section 529 program are taxable.

What are “adjusted qualified higher education expenses”?

Adjusted qualified higher education expenses are total qualified higher education expenses (tuition, mandatory fees, certain room and board costs, and equipment and supplies, and special needs services required for enrollment or attendance at an eligible educational institution) reduced by any tax-free educational assistance. Tax-free educational assistance includes tax-free scholarships and fellowships, Veteran’s educational assistance, Pell grants, employer-provided educational assistance, and any other tax-free payments (other than gifts or inheritances) received as educational assistance. Please see IRS Publication 970, available at www.irs.gov or by calling toll free 1-800-829-3676, for examples.

Remember that you are entitled to use the full amount of qualified higher education expenses, including room and board costs, for the beneficiary in order to qualify your Section 529 distributions for a particular year. This means that even if you receive a Pell grant or a tax-free scholarship for tuition, you may still use room and board costs to determine your total qualified higher education expenses.

Example: If the student receives a tax-free scholarship for tuition and mandatory fees in the amount of \$5,000, and VEST makes a payment to the school for \$5,000, for purposes of Section 529, the VEST payment of \$5,000 may be allocated to eligible room and board costs of \$5,000 or more.

What are tax-free scholarships?

Tax-free scholarships and fellowships include scholarship or fellowship payments made to a degree-candidate at an eligible educational institution, if the scholarship or fellowship payments are for tuition, fees, books, supplies or equipment. Scholarships and fellowships for room and board costs and travel expenses are taxable, and are not subtracted from qualified higher educational expenses. Please see IRS Publication 970, available at www.irs.gov or by calling toll free 1-800-829-3676, for examples.

Am I required to match up my 529 account distributions and higher education expenses in the same tax year?

On January 18, 2008, the Department of the Treasury issued an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking relating to Section 529 plans. While the actual regulations have not yet been issued, the Advance Notice provides information on a number of areas that will be addressed. Please note that it is possible that some aspects of the final regulations, when issued, may be retroactive.

The regulations are expected to clarify that Section 529 distributions and qualified higher education expenses must be matched up in the same tax year, with a "grace period" through March 31 of the following calendar year. You should have your distributions made in the same tax year as the expenses were incurred or by March 31 of the following year. This will also simplify the process of coordinating distributions from both a Section 529 account and a Coverdell Education Savings Account, or coordinating withdrawals from a Section 529 account with the Hope and Lifetime Learning tax credits.

How do I report earnings and penalty from a non-qualified distribution?

If you have a non-qualified distribution from your Virginia College Savings Plan account, you must report the earnings portion on line 21 of IRS Form 1040. The additional 10 percent of earnings penalty tax is reported on IRS Form 5329. Please see page 29 of the instructions for IRS Form 1040 or IRS Publication 970 for additional information.



The Virginia College Savings Plan cannot provide legal, investment or tax advice, and the foregoing information should not be construed as legal, investment or tax advice with respect to the consequences for any particular individual as a result of contributions to, investment of, or distributions from a Virginia College Savings Plan account.

Section 529 Qualified Tuition Programs are intended to be used only for qualified higher education expenses. These Programs are not intended to be used, nor should they be used, by any taxpayer for the purpose of evading federal or state taxes or tax penalties. Taxpayers may wish to seek tax advice from an independent tax adviser based on their own particular circumstances.

IRS Circular 230 Disclosure: The information concerning the federal tax consequences of participating in VEST is general in nature and does not take into account individual circumstances that may affect the tax treatment for a particular individual taxpayer. In addition, the information concerning tax consequences is not a “covered opinion” as that term is defined in IRS Circular 230 and, therefore, it is not intended or written to be used, and it cannot be used, for the purpose of avoiding penalties under the Internal Revenue Code.