

## Sending Your Money To College

## Forbes Entrepreneur




## True: 529 Plans can be used to pay for college.

False: The only way a responsible parent can pay for college is a $\mathbf{5 2 9}$ plan.

## What is a 529 Plan?

- A College savings plan that parents can set up for their kids.
- 529 plans have significant restrictions on the mutual funds they can invest in.
- The money grows tax deferred and can be deployed tax free... if it pays for the college of a designated beneficiary.
- If it is not used for college you have to pay tax and penalty on the gain.


## Problems with 529 Plans

- Planning for college $\neq$ buying a college savings plan
- The power of investment compounding cannot work
- Prudence says you must be "risk off" four years out from college
- Single-use dollars are always lost
- People spend what is budgeted


## Exponential Growth @ 7\%



## Exponential Growth



## Exponential Growth



# This compounding can continue even into retirement <br> (a healthy couple at 65 will likely make it to 93+) 

## How much for College?



# Though, can you keep taking risk like this right up to and while funding college? 



## With this math you think you have $\$ 337,000$ for college.

(People forget you have to go "risk off" leading up to school so that a market downturn does not wipe out your college funds.)

## Reduce risk before spending




# If someone gave you a budget to spend on a house, commercial building or vacation. How much of it would you spend? 




DON'T Send Your Money to College?? | Your Business Your Wealth

# Lost Opportunity Cost to the family of $\$ 761,266$ 

If the parents live to age 95, the LOST OPPORTUNITY COST to the child in their inheritance is $\$ 5,794,644$

## So What's the Alternative?

We can invest and plan for our child's education WITHOUT using a college savings plan

# Let's start by focusing on wealth building, rather than just education funding. 



Design and Build a Good Life ${ }^{\text {TM }}$

# Build toward having enough wealth for you to reach Definite Financial Independence, then pay for college from the most effective part of your balance sheet. 

# Is your intent to pay for college when they do not finish? 

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52\% do not graduate.

# Who should pay for your child's education if they do not graduate? 

# Who should pay for your child's education if they do not graduate? They should. 

## 5\% Borrowing for College



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## Things that naturally happen

- Child now learns what it is to borrow money
- They will naturally think more clearly about where to attend college, it feels more like they are spending their own money.
- Your money can continue to grow
- You now have a different conversation after graduation.
- You can pay for college in radically different ways.





## Even if...



Where else could you take the money from?


> Exercise Stock Options

Buying an investment property near campus

# This is $\$ 414,354$ more at age 65 for the parents than having paid for college by being sold a 529 plan. 



## Takeaways for you

- Keep control of your money, so you can choose how to use it.
- If you have a 529 plan... make some assessments
- Do not create an entitlement for your kids for college.
- When it comes to paying for college, have your child take out a loan, with the promise, you will pay it off, if they finish.
- Build an academically allocated, globally diversified portfolio.
- Protect your family first.


## How we help people...

THE WEALTH DESIGN PROCESS

We would be happy to share our philosophy. info@sfgwa.com



## Build your balance sheet first.








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