



Frequently Asked Questions

General Information

1 What is the DREAM Scholarship Fund?

The DREAM Scholarship Fund is designed to provide financial support for DREAM youth's post-secondary educational aspirations or beyond. It's a provided benefit for our mentees that are part of our Village Mentoring program. The Fund grows through fundraising support by DREAM and the mentee's site and professional investing. The Fund is stewarded by Big DREAM until a DREAM youth graduates high school, turns 18 years old, or leaves the DREAM Village Mentoring program. At that point, the funds become accessible for education-related expenses or retirement tax advantages and can be rolled into the appropriate 529 educational savings account or Roth IRA plan.

2 Why is DREAM offering this scholarship fund?

Our goal is to empower young people to take their education further, providing vital financial resources. This scholarship fund helps reduce financial barriers, igniting a positive transformation in students' attitudes and shaping their expectations for ambitious future plans.

3 Who is eligible for the DREAM Scholarship Fund?

All youth enrolled in our Village Mentoring program are eligible. For any specific eligibility or requirement questions, please email us at: DSF@dreamprogram.org.

What is DREAM committing to?

4

DREAM is committed to helping make post-secondary education financially viable. While there is no commitment to a specific amount that will be raised, Big DREAM and the mentee's DREAM sites will actively support growing the scholarship accounts over time.

How does DREAM fundraise for these scholarships?

5

DREAM employs various fundraising methods, including organizing a DREAM wide virtual peer-to-peer fundraising event, soliciting donations, creating smaller site based fundraisers, and helping build partnerships.

Managing & Accessing the Fund

How do I open a DREAM Scholarship Fund for my child(ren)?

1

Your child's account is open once they register for the Village Mentoring program. DREAM will send a welcome letter with your child's personalized URL link to their DREAM Scholarship account.

How do I track and manage my child's DREAM Scholarship Fund?

2

Your child will have a personal link on DREAM's online giving platform, Givebutter. Through this link, you can easily track contributions and share it with your network to raise funds. You won't need to manage these funds directly; DREAM holds them with the support of the PA Department of Treasury and the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation.

Are there any fees associated with managing the DREAM Scholarship Fund?

3

The DREAM Scholarship Fund has associated management fees, but these fees are managed by DREAM and will not impact account principals.

I have more than one child enrolled in DREAM. Will they each get their own DREAM Scholarship Fund?

4

Yes! Each child will have their own designated account.

How do I withdraw my child's funds?

5

Upon a mentee turning 18, graduating high school, or no longer being enrolled in the Village Mentoring program, they will have 90 days to transfer their accumulated funds into a 529 education savings account or Roth IRA. To support this transition, DREAM will provide educational resources upon graduation to help families understand how to open a 529 account and evaluate their options. DREAM does not endorse or recommend specific financial institutions, but aims to empower you with information to make the best choice for your needs.

Can I transfer my child's funds into a regular savings or checking account once they reach adulthood?

6

No, to gain access to the funds, they must first be deposited into a 529 education savings account, which may preserve tax benefits for education-related expenses. Consult your financial institution about available options. All states offer 529 educational savings plans.

Contributions & Fundraising

Who can contribute to the DREAM Scholarship Fund?

1

Financial contributions from individuals of all ages are welcome. However, minors should get approval and support from a parent or guardian before contributing.

I'm a donor. Is my donation tax-deductible?

2

Yes! DREAM is a nonprofit 501c organization, so your contribution is tax-deductible.

How can I donate via check?

3

Contributions to the DREAM Scholarship Fund can be made by check. Please make checks payable to, "**The DREAM Program.**" In the memo line of the check, specify your child's first and last name and site followed by, "DSF." If you wish to donate to the DSF as a whole, simply write "DSF" in the memo section.

Please mail checks to:

The DREAM Program

P.O. Box 361

Winooski, VT 05404

Scholarship & Financial Considerations

1

What can the DSF be used for?

The DREAM Scholarship Fund can be used for various educational purposes allowable through 529 educational savings accounts or retirement purposes through a Roth IRA.

2

What counts as a qualified education expense?

Qualified education expenses likely include, but aren't limited to:

- Tuition & fees for college or university
- Books and supplies required for courses
- Room and board for students living on campus
- Vocational and technical training programs
- Special needs equipment
- Student loan repayments

3

What is a 529 educational savings account?

It is a tax-advantaged savings plan designed to help families save for future qualified education expenses such as tuition, fees, books, and room and board.

4

Where can I open up a 529 educational savings account?

Every state offers these accounts, and you don't have to choose the plan offered by your state of residence. You can enroll in any state's plan.

Most 529 accounts can be opened online in a matter of minutes. You'll complete an online application and often make an initial contribution. Many plans have low or no minimum initial contribution requirements.

Opting Out & Special Cases

1

What if I don't want a DREAM Scholarship Fund for my child?

Participation is completely optional. If you'd prefer to opt-out, simple email: DSF@dreamprogram.org and ask to Opt- out of the fund.

2

What happens if my child decides not to go to pursue any education after high school?

If your child chooses not to pursue post-secondary education, you can still open a 529 educational savings account or a Roth IRA account to receive the funds. Your financial institution can advise you on alternative options for utilizing the funds.

What happens if I don't transfer the funds? Will they expire?

3

Yes, if the funds are not transferred within 90 days from when your child graduates High School or turns 18, they will expire. At that point, any unused funds will be reallocated to the general DREAM Scholarship Fund to support other participants in the program.

What happens if the account holder (or family for minors) no longer wants the account?

4

If the account holder no longer wants the account, the account funds will first be offered for allocation across any siblings of the account holder with DREAM Scholarship Fund accounts. If there are no siblings, funds will be allocated across the general accounts in DREAM, at the organization's discretion. This ensures that the funds will continue to fulfill their original purpose of supporting post-secondary education.

Security & Privacy

How is my child's scholarship account kept secure?

1

DREAM partners with trusted financial institutions (such as VSAC and the PA Department of Treasury) that use industry-standard safeguards to protect accounts and balances. Individual fundraising pages are hosted on Givebutter, which provides secure, encrypted transactions for all contributions.

Are donations processed securely?

2

Yes. All donations made online are processed through secure, PCI-compliant systems. Givebutter uses industry-standard encryption and fraud protection to keep donor information safe.

Who has access to my child's information?

3

Only authorized DREAM staff can view account records and sub-account balances. Donors can only see the information that families choose to share publicly via the Givebutter page (such as name and fundraising goal). Private details like addresses, account balances, and contact info are not visible to donors or the public.

Will DREAM ever share my information with outside organizations?

4

No. DREAM does not sell or share participant or donor information. Any data used for reporting is anonymized and aggregated.

What happens if someone donates to the wrong child's page?

5

DREAM staff review contributions and have systems in place to correct misapplied donations. If an error occurs, DREAM will reallocate the funds to the correct child's sub-account.

Donation Platform "Givebutter" & Technical FAQs

How do I monitor the performance of my child's account?

To monitor the performance of your child's account on a Givebutter campaign, follow these steps:

1

1. Log in to your Givebutter account.
2. Navigate to the campaign page where your child's team is listed.
3. Find the individual team page for your child's account.
4. Check the performance metrics, such as funds raised, donor activity, and progress toward goals. These details are usually displayed on the team page.

If you need more specific guidance, contact our DREAM support team for assistance. Please email us at: DSF@dreamprogram.org.