



Attainable: The ABLE Savings Plan

Offered by MEFA and managed by Fidelity Investments

How to Participate in This Webinar



The *Audio Settings* allow you to control the volume levels

Use the *Raise Hand* feature if you need to get the presenter's attention

Click *Leave* to exit the webinar

The *Chat* feature is disabled. To communicate with the host, please use the Q&A section.

Have a question during the webinar? Type it in the Q&A section

About MEFA

Not-for-profit state authority created in 1982 helping families plan, save, and pay for college



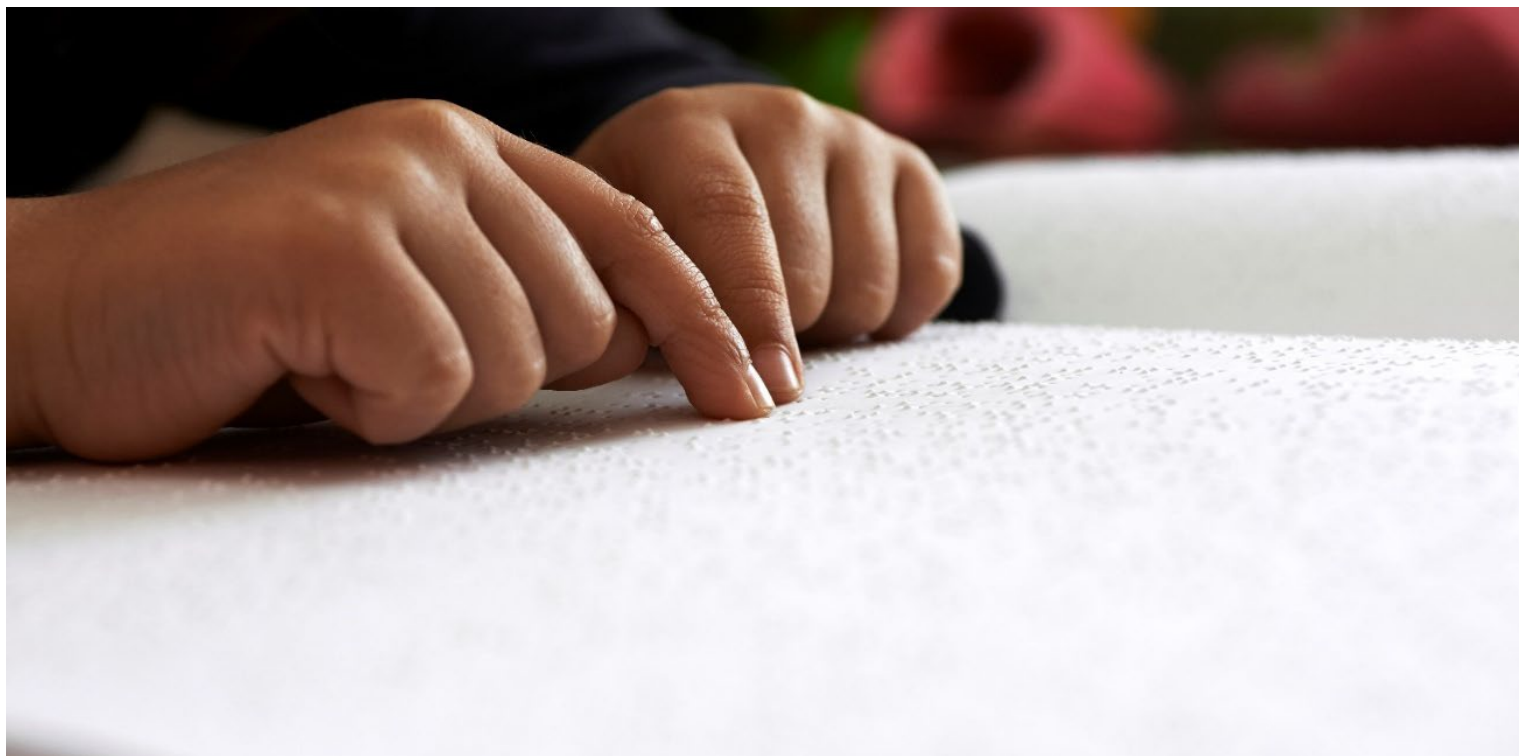
MEFA and Fidelity Partnership

The Attainable Savings Plan was launched in 2017. MEFA is the state sponsor and Fidelity Investments is the program manager. MEFA began its partnership with Fidelity in 1999 when it selected Fidelity to serve as the program manager of the U.Fund 529 College Investing Plan. Together MEFA and Fidelity offer expertise in college financing and money management.



What Is the ABLE Act?

The Stephen Beck, Jr. Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act amended the federal tax code in 2014 to add Section 529A. This legislation established ABLE accounts, tax-exempt accounts for eligible individuals with disabilities to be used for qualified disability expenses while still keeping eligibility for federal public benefits.



Who is Eligible for an ABLE Account?

Individuals are eligible if the applicable disability occurred before the individual turned 26 years old and:

- Is eligible to receive SSI or SSDI due to the disability

OR

- Has a condition listed on the Social Security Administration's *List of Compassionate Allowances Conditions*

OR

- Self certifies, which requires a diagnosis of physical or mental impairment that causes “marked and severe functional limitations,” such as conditions in the Social Security Administration’s Blue Book and that have lasted or are expected to last for at least one year.



Qualified Expenses for ABLÉ Accounts



Health



Housing



Education



Transportation



Assistive Technology Support



Employment Training & Support



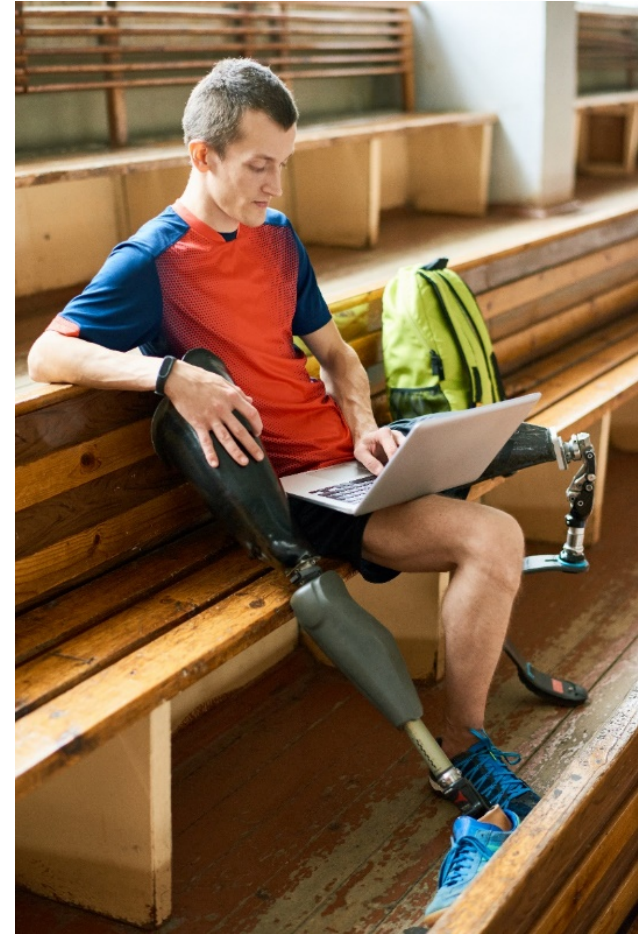
Personal Support Services



Basic Living Needs

Benefits of an Attainable Account

- Allows the account owner or Beneficiary the ability to save over \$2,000 without affecting federal benefits
- Permits the account to be owned by the individual with the disability
- Provides individuals with disabilities:
 - Financial independence
 - New investment opportunities
 - Multiple tax benefits



Attainable Account Features

- Total annual contribution can not exceed \$15,000
 - If employed, the Beneficiary may add up to \$12,490 more each year from earnings, so the annual contribution increases to \$27,490 (for 2020)
- Maximum account balance can not exceed \$400,000
- SSI is not suspended until account exceeds \$100,000
- No annual account fee



2020 Updates

- **ABLE Financial Planning Act**
 - Provided that the beneficiary is the same individual on both accounts (or one beneficiary is a family member of the other), it is now allowable to transfer funds from a 529 college savings plan into an ABLE account without incurring any tax or penalty.
- **ABLE to Work Act**
 - The ABLE to Work legislation specifies that ABLE account beneficiaries who work and earn income may now contribute over the annual limit of \$15,000 into their ABLE account.
- **ABLE on the FAFSA**
 - You do not have to list the funds in an ABLE account on the FAFSA. The FAFSA specifically excludes ABLE accounts in the asset section.

Additional Resources - Websites

- Able National Resource Center: ablenrc.org
- MEFA: mefa.org
- Attainable Savings Plan: fidelity.com/able
- Visit mefa.org/able-registration-form to sign up
- for updates and information about Attainable



DEAN COLLEGE Arch Learning Community

- **Comprehensive for fee program**
- **Serving all Learning Disabilities & Developmental Disabilities**
- **Academic coaching**
- **Designated Arch courses**
- **Specialized academic advising**
- **Arch Student Orientation**
- **Communication with parents-FERPA**



Banacos Academic Center



What is the Banacos Academic Center?

Houses four programs:

- Tutoring Program
- Academic Strategies
- Disability Services
- Learning Disabilities Program

Disability Services

- Disability Services provides a wide array of reasonable, appropriate accommodations for students with learning, physical, psychological, or medical challenges.
- Students are expected to provide current documentation of their disabilities.
- Please write to ds@westfield.ma.edu with questions.

Learning Disabilities Program

Overview of Services

KEY: Dedicated Program Advisors, Graduate Assistants, Faculty and Tutors

- Students are served by a team of talented staff who coordinate reasonable accommodations, programs, resources and services tailored to meet students' individual needs.
- Each student is assigned a program advisor who remains dedicated to the student for the duration of the college experience.
- Program advisors reach out to students regularly and monitor their academic progress throughout their time at Westfield State University.
- Students work with program advisors to determine what reasonable accommodations, services and resources will best meet their learning or other disability related needs.
- Every student is unique and every student self-advocates for the resources they need to be successful.
- Students determine their own level of involvement in the program.

What we don't do

We want to make sure that your expectations of our program, and what we actually do, match. Here are some expectations people have had in the past.

- We do not make wake-up calls or walk students to class
- We do not check on student behavior in the residence halls
- We are not life coaches
- We do not call parents to report on student progress
- Program advisors do not provide individual tutorial services
- We do not guarantee tutors are always available
- We do not administer or hold medications

What we do do

- We can meet with a student once or twice a week to help with
 - How to study
 - How to organize the week
 - How to organize course material
 - Finding resources to address more personal issues like working with Counseling, Financial Aid, and Residential Engagement Staff
- We meet with students each semester
 - During their first and second year, students in the LDP participate in early course registration so we work on course schedules that will allow them to work to the best of their ability taking into consideration their disabilities.
 - We work with the student to determine what accommodations are reasonable and appropriate at the college level and for the courses they will be taking.

Reasonable Accommodations

All reasonable accommodations are determined on an individualized basis in consultation with the student and upon review of supporting documentation.

Some accommodations include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Exam accommodations (including 50 or 100% extended time, readers, scribes, laptop use, distraction reduced room, exam room (over 2500 exams last year))
- Note taking assistance for classes
- Sign language interpreters
- Kurzweil 3000 (screen reader) and scanners
- Etc.

Role of Parents

The involvement of parents is crucial to many students' success. The role for parents in college differs from that in high school. To be successful, students independently must access university resources.

- Know the resources at WSU and refer students to them for papers, tutoring and other academic support.
- Encourage students to share their experiences and progress with you.
- Encourage students to self-advocate.

Curry College, Milton, MA

2300 Undergraduates

87 Majors and Minors

5 Master's Degree Program

5th Year MBA, MCJ, M.Ed.

15 Division III Teams

PAL

Program for Advancement of Learning (PAL)

Comprehensive Structured Support

20% Student Participation

Admit students with average to superior
intelligence

Individualized credit based one to one and small
group instruction

Mentoring relationship with PAL Professor

Transitional Courses: College Search East and
Summer PAL

Online Learning/IPAL

