

When you believe in their dreams, so do they.

PROGRAM DETAILS BOOKLET



2025-26 Enrollment Year



# **Notices**

This Program Details Booklet contains important information you should review before opening an account with the GET Prepaid Tuition Plan, including the Master Agreement (beginning on page 7) and information about the benefits and risks of investing. Please read it carefully and save it for future reference. Capitalized terms used in this Program Details Booklet are defined in the Master Agreement.

The information in this Program Details Booklet is believed to be accurate as of the cover date but is subject to change without notice. No one is authorized to provide information that is different from the information in the most current form of this Program Details Booklet.

529 Plans are intended to be used only to save for Qualified Higher Education Expenses. GET is not intended to be used, nor should it be used, by any taxpayer for the purpose of evading federal or state taxes or tax penalties. In addition, GET is not designed to help you reach your K-12 Expenses, Education Loan Repayment, or retirement savings goals. Taxpayers should seek tax advice from an independent tax advisor based on their unique circumstances.

If you are not a Washington resident, before investing, you should consider whether your or the Student's home state offers a 529 Plan that provides its taxpayers with favorable state tax and other state benefits such as financial aid, scholarship funds, and protection from creditors, that may only be available through an investment in the home state's 529 Plan, and which are not available through saving with GET. Since different states have different tax provisions, this Program Details Booklet contains limited information about the state tax consequences of investing in GET. Therefore, please consult your financial, tax, or other advisor to learn more about how state-based benefits (or any limitations) would apply to your specific circumstances.

State-based benefits should be one of many appropriately weighted factors to consider when making an investment decision. In addition, you should periodically assess and, if appropriate, adjust your 529 Plan investment choices with your time horizon, risk tolerance, and investment objectives in mind.







The Washington Student Achievement Council administers the GET Plan while the Washington State Investment Board oversees its investments. The Committee on Advanced Tuition Payment and College Savings, commonly referred to as the WA529 Committee, governs the Program.

## **WA529 COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

#### Michael Meotti, Chair

Executive Director, Washington Student Achievement Council

#### Mike Pellicciotti

State Treasurer

### K.D. Chapman-See

Director, Office of Financial Management

#### Kris Lambright

Citizen Member representing the business community

#### TRA

Citizen Member representing program participants

## **GET ADMINISTRATION**

#### Lucas Minor

Senior Director for Postsecondary Affordability, Washington Student Achievement Council

#### Lynda Ridgeway

Director of College Savings Plans, Washington Student Achievement Council

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# **Getting Started**

Getting started with GET is easy. The 2025-26 **Enrollment Period is November 1, 2025 to May 31, 2026.** Just follow these steps:

- Read this Program Details Booklet in its entirety and save it for future reference. It contains important information you should review before opening an Account, including the Master Agreement and information about the benefits and risks of investing.
- 2. Gather your information:
  - a. Your Social Security number or Tax ID number (TIN)
  - b. Your permanent address (note: either the Account Owner or the Student must be a Washington resident to open an account)
  - c. Your Student's Social Security number or Tax ID number (TIN) and date of birth
  - d. Your email address
  - e. Your checking or savings account number and your bank's routing number (if you want to contribute electronically with a bank transfer)
- 3. Go online to <a href="529.wa.gov/get">529.wa.gov/get</a>, and click on "Open an Account" at the top of the homepage. The easy-to-follow steps will guide you through the enrollment process. Enrolling online is fast, convenient, and secure, with no enrollment fee required. In as little as 15 minutes, you can be signed up and saving for college. If you prefer, you can complete and mail a paper Enrollment Form, which you can download at <a href="529.wa.gov/get/forms-get">529.wa.gov/get/forms-get</a>, or request a hard copy at <a href="getportal.wsac.wa.gov/app/public/request-materials">getportal.wsac.wa.gov/app/public/request-materials</a>.

# **Summary**

This Program Details Booklet provides you with important information that can help you decide whether to open a GET Prepaid Tuition Plan (GET or Program) Account. You can find the key terms used throughout this Program Details Booklet in Section II of the Master Agreement. This summary provides highlights of the features of GET and tells you where you can find more information about each topic.

#### **ABOUT GET**

GET is a prepaid 529 Plan designed to help Washington families save for college and career training expenses in a tax-advantaged way. GET allows you to prepay for future college Tuition and State-Mandated Fees, as well as room and board, books, computers, or other Qualified Higher Education Expenses.

#### **STATE GUARANTEE**

The state of Washington guarantees that 100 Units purchased today will equal the actual cost of one academic year of resident undergraduate Tuition and State-Mandated Fees at Washington's most expensive public university when your Student uses those Units to pay for college and career training expenses, regardless of how much Tuition and State-Mandated Fees have changed over time. This means that if you buy one Unit, it will be worth 1/100th of one year's future Tuition and State-Mandated Fees at Washington's most expensive public university. The GET guarantee is backed by the full faith and credit of the state of Washington, guaranteed in State law (see RCW 28B.95.050).

#### LIMITATIONS OF THE STATE GUARANTEE

The State does not guarantee that the Unit Payout Value will exceed the Unit Purchase Price. Any potential future State tuition decreases could cause GET units to lose monetary value. Participation in GET does not guarantee resident status to the student, nor does it guarantee admission to any Institution of Higher Education. The term Tuition and State-Mandated Fees is not the same thing as a school's full 'Cost of Attendance.' 'Cost of Attendance' includes other expenses such as institution-specific fees, books, computers, and room and board. If you intend to save towards additional expenses beyond Tuition and State-Mandated Fees, you may purchase additional GET units and/or consider complementing your GET savings with other savings options, such as WA529 Invest. Consult a tax advisor and a financial advisor in consideration of your personal circumstances.

#### WHAT'S INSIDE

# Master Agreement (p. 7)

The Master Agreement is the agreement between you and the Program that outlines the basic terms and conditions of opening and maintaining an Account in GET. Your completed Enrollment Form includes an acknowledgment that you agree to be bound by the terms and conditions of the Master Agreement and the entire Program Details Booklet. Read it carefully before deciding whether to open an Account. The Master Agreement also contains most of the definitions of terms you will find throughout this Program Details Booklet.

### Prices and Fees (p. 26)

This section outlines the prices for this year's Enrollment Period and fees that may apply to your Account.

## Your Account (p. 28)

You can find information about opening your Account and purchasing and using your Units in the Master Agreement starting on page 7 and in the Your Account section starting on page 28.

#### Important Risks You Should Know About (p. 30)

While GET offers a guarantee, every financial product comes with risks. This section will outline some of the key risks associated with saving in a GET Account.

#### Federal Tax Information (p. 33)

As a 529 Plan, GET offers federal tax benefits, including tax-deferred earnings. Any earnings are free of federal income tax when used toward Qualified Higher Education Expenses. If you take a Nonqualified Refund, any earnings are subject to applicable federal and state income taxes and may be subject to an additional 10% federal tax penalty (Distribution Tax).

# **GET Operations and Administration (p. 36)**

The Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) administers GET; the Committee on Advanced Tuition Payment and College Savings (Committee) governs the Program; and the Washington State Investment Board (WSIB) oversees the Program's holdings. This section discusses how we administer the Program, actuarial reviews and reports, and auditing of the Program. In addition, you will learn more about key events in GET operations.

# Master Agreement

#### 2025-26 MASTER AGREEMENT

#### I. ABOUT THIS AGREEMENT

This Master Agreement describes the basic terms and conditions of Washington's GET Prepaid Tuition Plan (GET or Program) as authorized by <a href="Chapter 28B.95 RCW">Chapter 28B.95 RCW</a> (Enabling Legislation). The completed 2025-2026 Enrollment Form includes an acknowledgment that you agree to be bound by the terms and conditions of this Master Agreement and the entire Program Details Booklet. The completed online or paper Enrollment Form and this Program Details Booklet are considered part of your Agreement with the Program (collectively called the Agreement). All these components constitute the entire Agreement between you and the State. You should retain a copy of this Agreement, any updates to this Agreement, and your Account statements for your records. The Enabling Legislation, regulations, and any guidelines we adopt will be available to view on our website at <a href="529.wa.gov">529.wa.gov</a>. You or any other interested party may receive a copy of the Enabling Legislation and this Agreement by contacting GET at 800-955-2318 or by email at <a href="GETInfo@wsac.wa.gov">GETInfo@wsac.wa.gov</a>.

This Agreement is not a promise or a guarantee that: (1) the Student will be admitted to any Eligible Institution or accepted into an Apprenticeship or Credential Program; (2) the Student will be allowed to continue enrollment at any Eligible Institution or participation in the Apprenticeship or Credential Program after admission; (3) the Student will be graduated from any Eligible Institution or complete any Apprenticeship or Credential Program; (4) the Student will be classified as an in-state student by any Washington public college or university; (5) the Student will receive any particular treatment under any applicable state or federal financial aid programs; and/or (6) the Student's Tuition and State-Mandated Fees at any Eligible Institution will be covered in full for the number of Units purchased under this Agreement unless the Student attends a State Institution of Higher Education that determines the Student to be a Washington resident, as applicable, and all of the terms and conditions of this Agreement are satisfied.

Before enrolling in GET, we recommend consulting with investment, legal, and tax professionals to ensure that GET is suitable for you and your needs.

#### **II. DEFINITIONS**

The following Terms used in this Master Agreement, the Program Details Booklet, and the Enrollment Form have the meanings set forth below:

- **A. 529 Plan** means a qualified tuition program within the meaning of Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code ("the Code").
- B. ABLE Rollover Distribution means a distribution to an account in a Qualified ABLE ("Achieving a Better Life Experience") Program for the same Student or a member of the family of the Student. Any distribution cannot cause the amount contributed to the account in the Qualified ABLE Program to exceed the annual contribution limit prescribed by Section 529A(b)(2)(B)(i) of the Code.
- c. **Academic Year** means the regular nine-month, three-quarter, or two-semester period annually occurring between August 1st and July 31st.
- D. **Account** means the record that contains the details of payments, fees paid and/or charged, Units purchased, Units distributed, Units refunded, and remaining Units in connection with a particular Student under an Agreement.
- **E. Account Owner,** or **you,** means the individual, partnership, corporation, trust, estate, association, organization, or other legal entity who/that establishes an Account and has designated control of the Account. An Account Owner must have a valid Social Security number (or Taxpayer Identification Number

(TIN) or Employer Identification Number (EIN)). An individual Account Owner must be a U.S. citizen or resident alien. If the Account Owner is a minor (as determined by relevant State law), either (i) a Custodian must be named if the Account is funded from the proceeds of an UGMA/UTMA account or (ii) a Guardian must be named for all other Accounts.

- **F. Account Owner Survivor** means an individual or legal entity authorized by the Account Owner to take control of an Account upon the death or incapacity of the Account Owner.
- **G. Actuarial Soundness** means funding, as determined by an actuary, that is sufficient to pay future obligations of the Program without the need for state appropriations. The actuarial assumptions that help inform the Committee when setting the Unit Purchase Price incorporate several factors, including estimated future tuition, projected inflation, investment returns, and administrative costs. It also includes a reserve to adjust for periods of lower-than-expected returns or higher-than-expected Tuition and State-Mandated Fees.
- H. Apprenticeship Program Expenses means expenses for fees, books, supplies, and equipment required for the participation of a Student in an apprenticeship program registered and certified with the U.S. Secretary of Labor under section 1 of the National Apprenticeship Act (29 U.S.C. 50).
- I. **Authorized Representative** means the individual authorized to act on behalf of a partnership, corporation, estate, association, organization, government entity, or other legal entity.
- J. **Benefit Use Year** means the year the Account Owner may begin the distribution of eligible Units for the benefit of the Student.
- **K. Blocked Account** means an Account that has use restrictions (usually, the Account Owner is a minor and the Account is restricted because of a court order). In most cases, no funds may be distributed without a court order or until the minor reaches the age of majority or is otherwise emancipated.
- **L. Code** means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.
- **M. Committee** means the Committee on Advanced Tuition Payment and College Savings which governs the Program and WA529 Invest.
- N. Credentialing Expenses means
  - tuition, fees, books, supplies, and equipment required for the enrollment or attendance of a beneficiary in a Recognized Postsecondary Credential Program, or any other expense incurred in connection with enrollment in or attendance at a Recognized Postsecondary Credential Program if the expense would, if incurred in connection with enrollment or attendance at an Eligible Educational Institution, be covered under numbers 1, 2 and/or 3 of the definition of Qualified Higher Education Expenses;
  - fees for testing if required to obtain or maintain a Recognized Postsecondary Credential, and
  - fees for continuing education if required to maintain a Recognized Postsecondary Credential.
- Credential Program (or Recognized Postsecondary Credential Program) means any program to obtain a Recognized Postsecondary Credential if
  - the program is on a state list prepared under Section 122(d) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Each state provides its own list of programs designed to comply with WIOA. For example, you can find a list of eligible training providers for Washington at <a href="https://esd.wa.gov/about-us/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/agency-budget/workforce-innovation-and-opportunity-act">https://esd.wa.gov/about-us/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/agency-budget/workforce-innovation-and-opportunity-act</a>;
  - the program is listed in the public directory of the Web Enabled Approval Management System (WEAMS) of the Veterans Benefits Administration. You can find more information about these programs at https://inquiry.vba.va.gov/weamspub/buildSearchInstitutionCriteria.do;
  - an examination is required to obtain or maintain a credential. The exam must be developed or administered by an organization widely recognized as providing reputable credentials in the occupation to which the exam relates. The organization must also recognize the program as providing training or education that prepares the individual to take the exam; or

- certain programs identified by the Secretary of the Treasury after consultation with the Secretary of Labor.
- P. Custodian means the individual who opens an Account on behalf of a minor Student with assets from an UGMA/UTMA account. Generally, the Custodian will be required to perform all duties of the Account Owner with regard to the Account until the Account Owner (who is also the Student) attains the age of majority, is otherwise emancipated, or the Custodian is released or replaced by a valid court order. The Custodian of an Account funded from an UGMA/UTMA account may not change the Account Owner/Student.
- Q. Custom Monthly Plan means a plan selected during the Enrollment Period for the purchase of 50 to 800 Tuition Units over a period of 1 to 18 years. A Custom Monthly plan locks in a predetermined fixed monthly payment, which includes a finance charge and an interest adjustment. As of June 30, 2022, new Custom Monthly Plans are not available to purchase until further notice.
- **R. Distribution** means payment by the Program to the Student's Eligible Institution toward the cost of Qualified Higher Education Expenses and/or reimbursement to the Account Owner or Student, if authorized by the Account Owner.
- S. Distribution Tax means the 10% federal tax penalty applied to earnings on Nonqualified Refunds.
- T. Education Loan Repayment means amounts paid as principal or interest on any Qualified Education Loan, of a Student or a sibling of a Student (up to a lifetime \$10,000 limit per Student or sibling of a Student). For this specific purpose, a sibling is defined as a brother, sister, stepbrother, or stepsister, as described in section 152(d)(2)(B) of the Code. For purposes of defining a sibling, the terms "brother" and "sister" include half-brothers and half-sisters, and a legally adopted child or a foster child of an individual is treated as the child of that individual by blood. You cannot claim a federal income tax deduction for interest paid on a Qualified Education Loan if you treat it as an Education Loan Repayment.
- U. **Eligible Institution** means an "eligible educational institution" under Section 529(e)(5) of the Code and as described in IRS Publication 970. The institution must be recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as eligible to participate in student financial aid programs. The Program does not determine an institution's eligibility.
- v. **Enrollment Form** means a completed online or paper GET Enrollment Form. Both versions can be found during the Enrollment Period at 529.wa.gov/get/forms-get.
- w. **Enrollment Period** means the period from November 1 of each year through May 31 of the following year, during which GET is open for new enrollments.
- **x.** Family Member means an individual as defined in Section 529(e)(2) of the Code. Generally, this definition includes a Student's immediate family members. A Family Member means an individual who is related to the Student as follows: a son, daughter, stepchild, or a descendant of any such person; a brother, sister, stepbrother, or stepsister; the father or mother, or an ancestor of either; a stepfather or stepmother; a son or daughter of a brother or sister; a brother or sister of the father or mother; a son-in-law, daughter-in-law, father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, or sister-in-law; the spouse of the Student or the spouse of any individual described above; or a first cousin of the Student. For purposes of determining who is a Family Member, a legally adopted child, or a foster child of an individual is treated as the child of that individual by blood. The terms "brother" and "sister" include half-brothers and half-sisters.
- **Y. Full-time Tuition** means resident undergraduate tuition charges at a State Institution of Higher Education for enrollment between 10 credit hours and 18 credit hours per academic term.
- **z. Gift Contribution** means the purchase of Tuition Units or payments by an individual who is not the Account Owner in connection with an established Account.
- **AA**. **Giftor** means an individual making Gift Contributions to an Account. Any person making a Gift Contribution will not have any title to or rights under the Account established pursuant to this Agreement.
- **BB. Guardian** means an adult authorized to make decisions on an Account owned by a minor Account Owner. The Guardian is automatically removed when the Student reaches 18 years of age.
- **cc. Information Release Person** means an individual other than the Account Owner who is authorized to receive limited Account information. The Program cannot release personal information regarding the Account,

including the Account Owner's login ID and password, to the Information Release Person.

- **DD**. **K-12 Expenses** means expenses in connection with enrollment or attendance at an elementary or secondary public, private, or religious school:
  - 1. tuition:
  - 2. curriculum and curricular materials;
  - 3. books or other instructional materials:
  - 4. online educational materials;
  - 5. certain tutoring expenses if offered by a teacher who is not related to the student, properly licensed, has taught at an eligible educational institution, or is a subject matter expert;
  - 6. fees for nationally standardized norm-referenced achievement tests, advanced placement exams, or any exams related to college or university admission;
  - 7. fees for dual enrollment in an institution of higher education; and
  - 8. educational therapies for students with disabilities provided by a licensed or accredited practitioner or provider, including occupational, behavioral, physical, and speech-language therapies.
- **EE.** Lump Sum Plan means a plan for the purchase of up to 800 Tuition Units at the Unit Purchase Price in effect on the date that payment is received by the Program. Additional Lump Sum Units may be purchased at any time at the Unit Purchase Price in effect for the date each payment is received by the Program.
- **FF. Master Agreement** ("Agreement") means the legally binding contract between the State and the Account Owner in favor of the Student resulting from our acceptance of your Enrollment Form and payment for the purchase of Tuition Units.
- **GG. Master Scholarship Account** means an Account opened by an Organization for the purpose of awarding Tuition Units as Scholarships.
- HH. Maximum Account Balance means the maximum aggregate balance of all Accounts for the same Student in 529 Plans sponsored by the state of Washington, as established by the Committee, which, if reached, will limit additional contributions that may be made to Accounts for any one Student, as required by Section 529 of the Code. The current combined Maximum Account Balance between GET and WA529 Invest is \$500,000. Additionally, no Student designated on a GET Account or multiple GET Accounts may be the beneficiary in the aggregate of more than 800 Tuition Units.
- II. Nonqualified Refund means all Distributions that are neither Qualified Refunds, Refunded Distributions, nor Rollover Distributions.
- JJ. **Organization** means a state or local governmental unit, or a nonprofit organization exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code, that is registered or licensed to operate in the State.
- **KK. Program** or **GET** means the Washington Advanced College Tuition Payment Program.
- LL. **Program Refund Penalty** means a penalty charged by the Program for a Nonqualified Refund in the amount of 10% of the earnings on an Account or \$100, whichever is greater.
- **MM**. **Qualified ABLE Program** means a program designed to allow individuals with disabilities to save for qualified disability expenses. Qualified ABLE Programs are sponsored by states or state agencies and are authorized by Section 529A of the Code.
- NN. Qualified Education Loan means a loan to pay certain higher education expenses as defined in Section 221(d) of the Code.
- **OO. Qualified Higher Education Expenses (QHEE)** means eligible education expenses within the meaning of Section 529 of the Code. Generally, these expenses include:
  - 1. tuition, fees, and the costs of textbooks, supplies, and equipment required for the enrollment or attendance of a Student at an Eligible Institution;
  - 2. expenses for services needed for a Student living with a disability that are incurred in connection

- with that Student's enrollment or attendance at an Eligible Institution;
- 3. the purchase of computer or peripheral equipment, computer software, or Internet access and related services to be used primarily by a Student while enrolled at an Eligible Institution;
- 4. the costs of room and board (subject to certain limits) during any academic period during which the Student is enrolled at least half-time at an Eligible Institution;
- 5. fees, books, supplies, and equipment required for the participation of a Student in an Apprenticeship Program;
- 6. K-12 Expenses;
- 7. Apprenticeship Program Expenses;
- 8. Education Loan Repayments; and
- 9. Credentialing Expenses.

We do not determine what is considered a Qualified Higher Education Expense and we recommend saving receipts.

PP. Qualified Refund means: (1) refunds made because the Student received a scholarship, provided that the scholarship is greater than or equal to the amount distributed; (2) refunds made because the Student attended a U.S. service academy, provided that the "cost of advanced education," (as defined in 10 U.S.C. 2005(d)(3)) is greater than or equal to the amount distributed; (3) refunds made as a result of the Student's death or disability; or (4) refunds resulting from the use of American Opportunity and/or Lifetime Learning Credits as allowed under federal income tax law.

#### QQ. Recognized Postsecondary Credential means

- 1. a credential that is industry-recognized and is
  - any postsecondary employment credential issued by a program that is accredited by the Institute for Credentialing Excellence, the National Commission on Certifying Agencies, or the American National Standards Institute:
  - any postsecondary employment credential that is included in the Credentialing Opportunities On-Line (COOL) directory of credentialing programs maintained by the Department of Defense or by any branch of the Armed Forces; or
  - any postsecondary employment credential identified by the Secretary of the Treasury, after consultation with the Secretary of Labor, as being industry-recognized;
- 2. any certificate of completion of an Apprenticeship Program;
- 3. any occupational or professional license issued or recognized by a state or the federal government and any certification that satisfies a condition for obtaining the license; or
- 4. any recognized postsecondary credential as defined in section 3(52) of the WIOA provided through a WIOA Recognized Postsecondary Credential Program (section 3(52) defines a recognized postsecondary credential as "a credential consisting of an industry-recognized certificate or certification, a certificate of completion of an apprenticeship, a license recognized by the state involved or federal government, or an associate or baccalaureate degree).
- RR. Refund means Qualified Refund and Nonqualified Refund.
- **ss. Refunded Distribution** means a Distribution that is later refunded by the Eligible Institution and recontributed to a 529 Plan that meets the following requirements:
  - 1. The re-contribution must not exceed the amount of the refund from the Eligible Institution;
  - 2. The re-contribution must not exceed the amount of distributions previously taken to pay the Qualified Higher Education Expenses of the Student;
  - 3. The re-contribution must be made to an account in a 529 Plan of the same Student to whom the refund was made; and

- 4. The funds must be re-contributed to a 529 Plan within 60 days of the date of the refund from the Eligible Institution.
- A Refunded Distribution will not be subject to federal income tax or the Distribution Tax.
- **TT. Resident Student** means an individual who has met the requirements at a State Institution of Higher Education to be classified as a resident of the state of Washington to qualify for resident undergraduate Tuition and State-Mandated Fees.
- UU. Rollover Distribution or Rollover means a transfer of assets, either between 529 Plans or to a Roth IRA, for the same Student, provided another rollover or transfer for the same Student from any other 529 plan has not occurred within the previous 12 months; or to an Account for a different Student, provided that the receiving Student is a Family Member of the original Student.
- vv. **Scholarship** means a scholarship, allowance, or payment as described in Tax Topic no.421 at <a href="irs.gov/taxtopics/tc421">irs.gov/taxtopics/tc421</a>, including payments made on account of attendance at a U.S. service academy.
- ww. State means the state of Washington.
- **xx**. **State Institution of Higher Education** means a public college or university in the state of Washington, as defined in RCW 28B.10.016.
- **YY. Student** means the beneficiary for whom Tuition Units will be distributed for attendance at an Eligible Institution. Students must have a valid Social Security number (or TIN).
- **ZZ**. **Trust Account** means an Account opened by a previously established trust.
- **AAA. Trustee** means the individual authorized to act on behalf of a Trust Account. The Trustee listed on a Trust Account must match the information on your trust documentation. You may only name one Trustee on your Trust Account, though you may list others as Information Release Persons.
- BBB. Tuition and State-Mandated Fees means resident undergraduate tuition and state-mandated fees, as defined in RCW 28B.15.020 and RCW 28B.15.041 rounded to the nearest whole dollar. State-mandated fees are those provided by statute, including operating, building and services, and activities fees. They do not include institutionally mandated fees that may be required at each individual school. Schools may impose their own fees, such as technology, library, recreation, and fees to secure repayment of bonded indebtedness, and other types of fees. The statute does not consider these state-mandated fees and, therefore, these fees are not covered in the Unit Payout Value amount.
- **CCC. Tuition Unit** or **Unit** means 1/100th of the highest resident undergraduate Tuition and State-Mandated Fees of the four-year State Institutions of Higher Education for the Academic Year of Distribution.
- DDD. UGMA/UTMA refers to the Uniform Gift to Minors Act and the Uniform Transfers to Minors Act. Washington State has enacted its version of the Uniform Trust for Minors Act (UTMA), other states have enacted their versions of the Uniform Gift to Minors Act (UGMA), and the laws governing these UGMA and UTMA accounts differ from state to state. GET Accounts may be funded from UGMA or UTMA accounts. The funding account (UGMA or UTMA) will be governed by the state where the account is established. Before you fund from a UGMA or UTMA account, you should consult a tax advisor regarding the rules applicable to the UGMA or UTMA account that will be used to fund your GET Account.
- **EEE. Unit Payout Value** means one percent of the highest resident undergraduate Tuition and State-Mandated Fees at four-year State Institutions of Higher Education for the Academic Year at the time of Distribution. We announce the Unit Payout Value at the beginning of each Academic Year after the State Institutions of Higher Education set their tuition rates. The Unit Payout Value is not the same as the Unit Purchase Price, although in some years the amounts match. Some State Institutions of Higher Education also administer fee-based, self-supporting programs that are not applicable to this definition, as they are considered to be non-state-funded programs as described in RCW 28B.15.031.
- FFF. Unit Purchase Price means the cost of purchasing one Tuition Unit. The Committee sets this price prior to the beginning of each Enrollment Period and may adjust it once annually to ensure the Program's Actuarial Soundness. The Unit Purchase Price is informed by an actuarial formula. See *IV.E. Pricing of Tuition Units* on page 17 of this Agreement and *Prices and Fees*, on pages 26-27 for specific details on how we set the Unit Purchase Price.

- **GGG.** Unredeemed Units means Tuition Units that remain in an Account that have not been distributed or refunded.
- **HHH. WA529** means the division of the Washington Student Achievement Council that administers the GET Prepaid Tuition Plan and WA529 Invest.
- III. WA529 Invest (formerly DreamAhead) means Washington's 529 education savings plan, known as the Washington College Savings Program, as authorized by RCW 28B.95.032. The Committee also governs WA529 Invest.
- JJJ. We, Our, or Us means the GET Program, the Committee, and the WSIB, as applicable.
- KKK. WSAC means Washington Student Achievement Council.
- LLL. WSIB means the Washington State Investment Board.

#### **III. OPENING AN ACCOUNT AGREEMENT**

#### A. Submitting an Enrollment Form

- 1. **Completed Enrollment Form.** You must complete the Enrollment Form you submit to us according to the instructions on the Enrollment Form. Either you (the Account Owner) or the Student must be a resident of the state of Washington at the time you submit the Enrollment Form. A valid email address is required to access your Account online and receive Program communication (see **Notices and Communications** on page 29). We require a separate Enrollment Form for each Student. You must complete the Enrollment Form online by midnight Pacific Time on the last day of the Enrollment Period to meet that year's enrollment deadline. If you choose to submit a paper Enrollment Form, it must be postmarked by the last day of the Enrollment Period for us to process your enrollment. For purposes of opening an Account, we define a resident as an individual whose permanent legal residence is Washington State. This includes military personnel who reside out-of-state but list Washington as their home of record in their military files. We will reject incomplete or improperly completed Enrollment Forms.
- 2. **Initial Payment**. You must make an initial minimum contribution of \$25 within the enrollment year in which you complete your Enrollment Form, or your Account may be canceled at our discretion.

#### B. Enrollment Form Acceptance, Agreement

- 1. **Written Confirmation by the Program**. A binding Agreement will be established once we receive your online or paper Enrollment Form in good order and we confirm to you in writing or by email that we have accepted your Enrollment Form.
- 2. **Return of Enrollment Form**. If, for any reason, we do not accept your Enrollment Form we will return to you the amount of any payment made. We may reject your Enrollment Form for any of the following reasons: you did not provide a valid Social Security number (or a TIN or EIN), date of birth, and/or email address for the Account Owner and/or the Student; neither the Account Owner nor the Student was a Washington resident at the time of enrollment; or, if applicable, you did not enclose the Trust Account documents and/or a valid birth certificate.
- 3. **Ownership of Account.** You, as the Account Owner, will own the Account and only you may exercise rights under the Account unless ownership is transferred voluntarily or involuntarily, as defined below.
- 4. **Automatic Transfer of Ownership**. If you die, and you have not designated an Account Owner Survivor to assume control over your Account, the executor of your estate will be required to submit your death certificate and copies of estate documents to change ownership of the Account to the estate and add the executor as the authorized representative to act on behalf of the Account. If the Account Owner has clearly listed in their last will and testament who inherits the GET Account, the executor may submit those documents to change ownership. If a minor is designated as the new Account Owner, the Account will become a Blocked Account unless we receive a court order specifically stating that the Guardian may act on behalf of the Student (see Account Owner Survivor definition on page 8 for further details).
- 5. **Voluntary Transfer of Ownership**. You may transfer ownership of or rights under the Agreement to another person to act as Account Owner only if the transfer is not prohibited by State or federal law or

regulation, and we approve the transfer in writing. The new Account Owner must agree to the transfer by signing the Account Owner Change form and will thereby be subject to the terms of the Agreement. Your signature and the signature of the new Account Owner must be notarized, and the original notarized pages mailed to GET.

- **C. The Account Owner.** Only one Account Owner is allowed.
  - 1. **Qualifications.** To own an Account, you must meet the following qualifications (as applicable):
    - a. **Individual Account Owners.** Individual Account Owners must be U.S. Citizens or resident aliens and provide their date of birth and a valid Social Security number (or TIN). In certain cases, we may accept other documentation.
    - b. **Minor Account Owners.** For a minor Account Owner, an adult must sign the Enrollment Form and certify that the adult will serve as Guardian or Custodian, as applicable, under the Agreement. The Guardian or Custodian is automatically removed when the Minor Account Owner reaches the age of 18
    - c. Account Owners that are not Individuals (except Trust Accounts). If an entity is the Account Owner, a legally Authorized Representative of the entity must sign the Enrollment Form. The Authorized Representative must sign all Program forms. Only one Authorized Representative is allowed. You must notify us in writing if the Authorized Representative changes.
    - d. **Trust Accounts.** A trust must be previously established before opening a Trust Account. We require the following at the time of enrollment for all Trust Accounts: official trust documents showing full legal name, TIN, Trustee name(s), and their notarized signatures. Only one Trustee may be authorized to act on behalf of an Account; others may be listed as Information Release Persons. No Distributions may be made from Trust Accounts until we receive all required documentation.
    - e. **Scholarship Programs.** An Organization may open a Master Scholarship Account on behalf of its scholarship program. See the GET Master Scholarship Policy on the GET forms page of the WA529 website (529.wa.gov/get/forms-get) or contact us for more details.
    - f. **Court-ordered or Blocked Accounts.** A court may order funds to be deposited into a Blocked Account for the benefit of a minor child. The court will specify any restrictions and the terms of Distribution. The minor child will be the Account Owner, and a Guardian must be provided as a point of contact on behalf of the minor child.
    - g. **Blocked Accounts.** A minor Account Owner Survivor assumes ownership after the Account Owner has died. The Account is blocked from any Account Owner changes, Student changes, or refunds until the minor Account Owner reaches the age of 18. Distributions directly to an Eligible Institution can be made prior to the minor reaching the age of 18. A Guardian must be provided as a point of contact on behalf of the minor child.
  - 2. **Notice to Account Owners**. You maintain complete control of the Account for the life of this Agreement. Only you may request Account changes, Distributions, Refunds, or cancellations. We will direct all official notices only to you unless you request otherwise in writing. Your Student has no control over your Account, unless that Student is the Account Owner.
  - 3. **Using Funds from UGMA/UTMA Accounts.** Custodians for minors under UGMA/UTMA (see *Definitions* section on pages 7-13 for more information) may open an Account using funds from an UGMA/UTMA account subject to the state laws and rules governing the UGMA/UTMA account as follows:
    - a. The Student will obtain control of the Account and all rights under this Agreement upon reaching the age of majority or being otherwise emancipated. Once the minor Account Owner reaches the age of majority, the Custodian will be removed, and new login information will be requested from the Account Owner.
    - b. Any and all contributions to this Account will be considered UGMA/UTMA funds, will remain an asset of the Student, and will be subject to UGMA/UTMA restrictions. You should open a separate Account if you prefer to keep new contributions free from these restrictions.
    - c. We will not be liable for any consequences related to a Custodian's improper use, transfer, or characterization of UGMA/UTMA or other custodial funds.

- d. You cannot name an Account Owner Survivor for Accounts funded with UGMA/UTMA proceeds. However, you may name a Custodian survivor, who will act as Custodian upon the original Custodian's death or incapacity.
- 4. **Power of Attorney.** We will accept a power of attorney. You must notify us when the rights granted pursuant to the power of attorney end. If the Account Owner is deceased, the power of attorney is void.

#### D. The Student

- 1. **Designation of Student.** Except as described below, this Agreement must designate, as the Student of this Agreement, a Student who has a valid Social Security number or Tax Identification Number (TIN). The Student does not need to be related to you. There is currently no age restriction for the Student, although you must provide the Student's date of birth. The Student may be the same person as the Account Owner.
- 2. **Scholarship Programs.** An Organization opening a Master Scholarship Account does not need to designate a Student at the time of enrollment. See the Program Master Scholarship Policy on the GET forms page of the WA529 website (529.wa.gov/get/forms-get) or contact us for more details.
- 3. **Change of Student**. For any reason during the Agreement term, you may designate a new Student by submitting a request online or by submitting the Change of Student Beneficiary form from our website. The new Student must be a Family Member of the previously designated Student. Neither you nor your Student may receive payment or other consideration in connection with this change. We may require a court order to change or disallow changes of the Student for Blocked Accounts.
- 4. **Designation of the Benefit Use Year**. You must designate a Benefit Use Year for your Student. The Student may not use Units until this date or later. Changing this date affects the accumulation of eligible Units, and we only allow changes to this date in certain circumstances. Please contact us for more information.

#### IV. PURCHASING TUITION UNITS

#### A. Annual Enrollment Period

- 1. We announce a new Enrollment Period annually. You may submit an Enrollment Form to open a new Account only during an Enrollment Period. You may purchase additional Lump Sum units, and Giftors can make Gift Contributions to existing Accounts at any time, including outside of an Enrollment Period.
- 2. The terms and features of GET in subsequent Enrollment Periods may differ from the terms and features described in this Master Agreement. We make no representation or assurance that there will be additional Enrollment Periods, or that Enrollment Periods will take place annually. We may limit the number of Tuition Units that may be purchased in any given Enrollment Period, current or subsequent, although there are currently no plans for any such limits beyond the maximum number of Tuition Units allowed per Student (see *Section IV.B.2* of this Agreement below). We reserve the right to modify the terms and features of any Enrollment Period as needed.

#### B. Number of Tuition Units

- 1. **Minimum Purchase**. For each new Lump Sum Plan Account, you must make at least the minimum \$25 purchase within the same Enrollment Period in which you completed your Enrollment Form, or your Account may be canceled at our discretion.
- 2. **Maximum Number of Tuition Units**. No Student designated on an Account or multiple Accounts may be the beneficiary in the aggregate of more than 800 Tuition Units. All Units in Accounts for the same Student count towards the State's Maximum Account Balance limit. All accounts for the same Student under all qualified tuition programs sponsored by the State (currently GET and WA529 Invest) are counted toward the Maximum Account Balance regardless of the Account Owner. If a contribution is made to an Account that would cause the aggregate value of all GET and WA529 Invest accounts for the same Student to exceed the Maximum Account Balance, the entirety of the contribution amount will be returned to you or the contributor, as applicable.
- 3. **Overpayments.** If a Custom Monthly Plan is paid in full and we receive additional payments, we will do the following:

- a. Overpayments of \$100 or less We will NOT notify you and will automatically apply the overpayment to purchase Lump Sum Units.
- b. Overpayments of more than \$100 We will notify you that the payment was received, and you may elect to purchase Lump Sum Units, transfer the overpayment to another Account, or receive the funds back. If the overpayment was received as a gift, we will return the payment to the Giftor.

If you do not respond within 14 days, we will post the funds as a Lump Sum Unit purchase. If the total Tuition Units in your Account exceed 800, we will return the excess amount to you (or the Giftor if the overpayment was a gift). Please allow a minimum of two weeks after their receipt for overpayments to be returned.

# C. Purchase Options

- 1. **General.** You can purchase Tuition Units under the Lump Sum Plan. Until further notice, new Custom Monthly Plans are not available to purchase.
- 2. Lump Sum Plan. You may choose to purchase Tuition Units covered by the Agreement in one Lump Sum payment at the time of Enrollment. Once you establish an Account, you may make additional lump sum purchases at any time at the purchase price in effect at the time of payment. We generally post payments to your Account on the date that we receive the payment. Payments received after June 30 are posted to your Account after the annual Unit Purchase Price is set, typically in September.
- 3. Custom Monthly Plan (currently unavailable for new purchases until further notice). Custom Monthly Plans opened between November 1, 2019 and May 31, 2022 include a five and one-half percent (5.5%) finance charge per annum for the life of the payment plan, and a small interest adjustment amount, rounded to the next whole dollar. You may set up your Custom Monthly Plan for 1 to 18 years in duration. You may make payments through payroll direct deposit or automatic monthly withdrawal. Each monthly installment payment is due on the monthly due date. Units purchased under a Custom Monthly Plan may not be used until the Account has been paid in full. Custom Monthly Plans may be paid off early, although there is no reduction in total finance charges that apply to your Account for the payment term of your Agreement. You may request to modify your Custom Monthly Plan or convert it to a Lump Sum Plan before it is paid in full, by completing an Account Change Request form. A Custom Monthly Plan that has been paid in full may not be modified or converted to a Lump Sum Plan. Custom Monthly Plan change options include:
  - a. Adjusting the Term Length. You may reduce or increase the payment term of your Agreement in whole-year increments. Shortening the payment term may increase the monthly payment amount and reduce total finance charges paid. When shortening the payment term of a Custom Monthly Plan, the payment term must be equal to or longer than the number of years since the first monthly payment due date. For example, for a Custom Monthly Plan that has been open for two years and seven months, you may not reduce the payment term to fewer than three years. Lengthening the payment term may reduce the monthly payment amount and increase total finance charges paid.
  - **b. Reducing Units.** You may reduce the total number of Units purchased over the life of the contract in 50-Unit increments. This may lower the total cost of a Custom Monthly Plan contract and may result in fewer Units being accumulated.
  - c. Converting to a Lump Sum Plan. If you convert your Custom Monthly Plan to a Lump Sum Plan, each payment made prior to the conversion date will be applied at the Unit Purchase Price in effect at the time the payment was received. This will end your Custom Monthly Plan Contract early and may, in some cases, result in more Units than otherwise would have accumulated up to the conversion date under the original Custom Monthly Plan contract.
- **D. Promotions and Incentives.** Occasionally, WA529 will hold promotions or offer incentives in the form of seed deposits or a contribution match to new or existing account owners. WA529 reserves the right to set the terms of each individual promotion. If an account is canceled or refunded, any contributions made by WA529 to the account as a result of a WA529-sponsored promotion or incentive may be withheld and retained by WA529.

#### E. Pricing of Tuition Units

- 1. **Annual Determination.** For each year, we will use actuarial methods to inform Unit Purchase Price decisions for Tuition Units purchased during that year, which may include a premium over current Tuition and State-Mandated Fees. The price and monthly payment amount for Tuition Units purchased through an individual Custom Monthly Plan will not change from year to year but remain as determined at the time you entered into your Agreement with us. **Custom Monthly Plans are currently not available for purchase until further notice.** We set the Unit Purchase Price for Lump Sum Plan Units annually, and we may also adjust the price once during the year, if necessary, to ensure the Actuarial Soundness of the Program (see <a href="RCW 28B.95.080">RCW 28B.95.080</a>).
- 2. **Determination of Unit Purchase Prices.** The Unit Purchase Price is informed by an actuarial formula that establishes a best estimate unit price. This formula considers the following: one percent of the present value of the projected future highest resident undergraduate Tuition and State-Mandated Fees for the four-year State Institutions of Higher Education; the administrative costs for operating the program; and ensuring the Actuarial Soundness of the Program. The Committee considers the results of this formula and determines the final Unit Purchase Price, which may or may not match the best estimate price derived by the actuarial formula. The actual Unit Purchase Price paid for each Unit may vary depending on the purchase payment options you choose at the time of purchase. See **Prices and Fees**, on pages 26-27, for specific details on how we set the Unit Purchase Price.
- 3. **Maximum Allowable Unit Price.** In 2021, the Washington State Legislature passed Senate Bill 5430, which states: The governing body shall adopt a unit price of no more than 10 percent, including administrative fees, above the current unit payout value if: (a) The best estimate funded status of the program provided by the state actuary is in excess of at least 120 percent as of July 1st of each year; and (b) Tuition and fee increases for the academic year immediately following the July 1st best estimate funded status will be no more than the average annual percentage growth rate in the median hourly wage for Washington for the previous 14 years as the wage is determined by the federal bureau of labor statistics (see <a href="RCW 28B.95.030(7)">RCW 28B.95.030(7)</a>).

#### F. Methods of Payment

- 1. **Acceptable Methods.** Payment of the purchase price for Tuition Units and required fees must be made in United States currency, using any of the payment methods we allow, including:
  - a. **Automatic withdrawal authorization**. You can select this method online at any time, or during enrollment or, if you enroll by paper form, you must complete an Automatic Withdrawal Authorization form and include a voided check for verification of routing and bank account numbers;
  - b. Personal or cashier's check;
  - c. Money order;
  - d. **Payroll direct deposit.** If you select this method, you must be employed by an entity that offers payroll direct deposit for GET and must complete a Payroll Direct Deposit Authorization form provided by, or acceptable to, us; or
  - e. **Payment online through our website via an online automatic payment option.** There is a \$1 fee assessed by U.S. Bank per transaction.
- 2. **Methods Not Accepted.** We do not accept payments via wire transfer, cash, debit card, or credit card.
- 3. **Fees.** You will be responsible for any fees charged by a bank or other entity that may apply to the payment method you select, including fees assessed on returned payments (see *IV.K. Dishonored Payments* on page 19 of this Agreement).

#### G. Gift Contributions

- 1. **Gift Contributions to an Existing Account**. A Giftor may contribute to a Student's account by check, or they may use the online gifting portal to create an online profile and make and track gift contributions. A Giftor may purchase additional Tuition Units or, in the case of a Custom Monthly Plan, may apply a gift to current or future monthly payments covered by the Agreement.
- 2. **Limits.** Any Gift Contribution is, together with the Tuition Units covered by the Agreement, subject to the maximum purchase amount of 800 Units. If your Account is on a Custom Monthly Plan, we will apply the

- Gift Contribution to the payments on the Custom Monthly Plan, unless we receive written instructions to purchase additional Lump Sum Plan Units. If a Gift Contribution causes an Account balance to exceed the 800 Tuition Unit maximum, we will return the excess amount to the Giftor.
- 3. **Timing of Gift Contributions**. A Giftor can make a Gift Contribution to an Account at any time, including outside an Enrollment Period. The Unit Purchase Price posted to an Account will be the price in effect at the time we receive the payment.
- 4. **Purchase Price**. If a Gift Contribution purchases additional Lump Sum Plan Units on an Account, it will purchase Units at the price in effect at the time we receive the Gift Contribution. If a Gift Contribution applies to payments on a Custom Monthly Plan, we will apply it at the rates established in your Agreement.
- 5. **Ownership of Tuition Units**. A Giftor who makes a Gift Contribution to an Account has no ownership rights for Units purchased with that contribution. The Account Owner will solely own and retain direction for all Unit purchases added via Gift Contributions.
- 6. **Terms of Existing Agreement**. Gift Contribution Unit purchases will not affect the terms of your Agreement.
- H. Rollovers. When you purchase Tuition Units, you must indicate whether the purchase is funded by a Rollover contribution from a Coverdell Education Savings Account, a qualified U.S. Savings Bond (as described in Section 135(c)(2)(C) of the Code) or another 529 Plan for the same Student or for a new Student who is a Family Member of the original Student. If it is a Rollover contribution, you must provide acceptable documentation showing the earnings portion of the contribution. If the documentation is not provided, we will treat the entire amount of the Rollover contribution as earnings. Rollovers may be subject to taxes and penalties on earnings, including the Distribution Tax. Please see the Federal Tax Information section of the Program Details Booklet for more information. Acceptable documentation for a Rollover includes:
  - **1. 529 Plan Assets:** An account statement issued by the 529 Plan that shows the earnings or loss portion of your withdrawal.
  - 2. **Coverdell Education Savings Accounts:** An account statement or documentation issued by the account custodian that shows the basis and earnings in the account.
  - 3. **U.S. Savings Bond:** An account statement or IRS Form 1099-INT from the redeeming institution that shows the interest that has accrued on the bond.
  - 4. Other documentation that we determine to be acceptable in accordance with future guidance issued by the IRS.

The IRS permits Rollovers between 529 Plans for the same Student only if it has been at least 12 months since the most recent Rollover for that Student. There is no restriction on the frequency of Rollovers between 529 Plans for different Students. You must reinvest the distribution in another 529 Plan within 60 days of the withdrawal date.

Any incoming Rollover contributions used to purchase new Units will be subject to the two-year wait requirement before any such Units may be distributed (see *V.A. Distribution of Tuition Units* below).

I. **Prepayment.** You may prepay any amount due under a Custom Monthly Plan before the applicable monthly due date. We will automatically apply prepayments in the following order of priority: (1) to any outstanding fees, charges, or penalties, under this Agreement; and (2) to future monthly payments in chronological order by due date. Upon a prepayment, we will not reduce the total monthly payments or the finance charge component of your Custom Monthly Plan.

#### J. Failure to Pay When Due

- 1. **Payment Made Late.** Custom Monthly payments are due on the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month. If you make any monthly payment more than 10 days after the applicable monthly due date, that amount will be treated as a late payment. We will charge you a late payment fee for each late payment as described in the **Program Fees** chart on page 27.
- 2. **Failure to Pay.** If your Custom Monthly Plan is more than 180 days behind in payments, we may cancel your Agreement to purchase Units under the Custom Monthly Plan and may automatically convert your Account to a Lump Sum Plan. We will deduct any outstanding fees from your Account at the time of

conversion and payments will post at the Unit Purchase Price in effect at the time each payment was received.

#### K. Dishonored Payments

- Dishonored Payment. If your check, automatic withdrawal, or other payment is not honored or not paid
  in full by the applicable bank or other entity (including stop payments), the payment will be treated as a
  dishonored payment. Each dishonored payment will be subject to a dishonored payment fee (see *Program Fees* on page 27). We will process replacement payments made to offset dishonored payments at the Unit
  Purchase Price in effect at the time we receive the replacement payment.
- 2. **Initial Payment.** If the dishonored payment represents the initial payment, we may choose not to accept the Enrollment Form, or if we had previously accepted the Enrollment Form, we may cancel the Agreement.
- 3. **Monthly Payment.** If the dishonored payment is a Custom Monthly Plan payment, the amounts relating to the dishonored payment will remain due.

#### V. DISTRIBUTION OF TUITION UNITS

- **A. Distribution of Tuition Units.** For Tuition Units to be distributed, the following must occur:
  - 1. **Lump Sum Plan.** You must hold your Units for two years after the purchase of the Units. You must pay any outstanding fees before we can approve or process a Distribution.
  - 2. **Custom Monthly Plan.** Your Custom Monthly Plan must be paid in full, there must be no outstanding fees, and your Agreement must have been in effect for two years before you may use any Units.
  - 3. **Benefit Use Year.** The Student must have enrolled in an Eligible Institution on or after the projected Benefit Use Year set forth in the Enrollment Form. You may not change the Benefit Use Year to a date prior to the Student's enrollment in an Eligible Institution.
- **B.** Running Start Program. We will reimburse actual tuition expenses charged to the Student for enrollment in the Running Start Program as defined in <a href="RCW 28A.600.300">RCW 28A.600.300</a>. We also will reimburse you for all non-subsidized required Qualified Higher Education Expenses.
- C. Qualified Higher Education Expenses (QHEE). The IRS may require documentation from you and/or your Student necessary to confirm that a Distribution will be used only for QHEE, as allowed by federal tax law in effect at the time. Changes in federal law may affect the types of QHEE and Eligible Institutions for which Distributions may be used. We do not determine what is considered a QHEE and recommend that you save receipts.
- **D. Use of Tuition Units.** You may use Tuition Units for Qualified Higher Education Expenses at any Eligible Institution. We do not guarantee that the value of 100 Tuition Units will cover the full amount of tuition and state-mandated fees unless used at a State Institution of Higher Education.
- **E.** Timing and Maximum Distribution. Unless eligible Units are available from a prior Benefit Use Year, your total Distributions may not exceed 200 Units per Student for the Academic Year. Subject to any further restrictions imposed by State or federal laws or regulations, you must make all requests for a Distribution from your Account within 10 years after the Benefit Use Year or within 10 years after the first distribution date for your Account, whichever is later, unless we approve your written request for an extension before that time.
- **F.** Request for Distribution. Direct Distribution or reimbursement requests (as described in *V.G. Payment of Distribution* below) may be completed either online or by paper form. We must receive your properly completed request for any Distribution at least two weeks prior to the date that you or the Eligible Institution needs to receive the Distribution, or your payment may not arrive in time. If the Account has been opened by an Organization in connection with a scholarship program, the Organization also must designate the Student and provide the information we require at least two weeks prior to the expected Distribution date.

#### G. Payment of Distribution

- 1. **Direct Payments to Institutions**. Except as provided in *V.G.2. Reimbursement* below, we will pay Distributions directly to the Eligible Institution.
- 2. **Reimbursements.** We can pay Distributions to you or your Student for Qualified Higher Education Expenses in the form of a reimbursement. Reimbursements to the Account Owner may be received by check or direct bank deposit. Any reimbursement requests for payments directly to your Student must be submitted using the paper Reimbursement Request form and must include the notarized signature of the Account Owner. Reimbursement requests must be made in the same calendar year in which the qualified expenses were incurred. Reimbursements for Qualified Higher Education Expenses incurred in a prior calendar year may have state and/or federal tax implications.
- 3. **Value of Tuition Units to be Distributed**. Tuition Units are valued at the time of Distribution, as set forth in the Unit Payout Value definition within this Agreement.
- 4. **Tax Reporting.** Annually by January 31, we will issue an IRS Form 1099-Q (Payments From Qualified Education Programs) to the Account Owner for Distributions made from an Account in the previous calendar year. The IRS Form 1099-Q will be issued to the Student for distributions made to the Student or to an Eligible Institution on behalf of the Student. We will also report Distributions to the IRS as may be required. Consult Chapter 7 of IRS Publication 970 at <a href="irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p970.pdf">irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p970.pdf</a> for further information about tax reporting for qualified tuition programs.

#### VI. REFUNDS

#### A. General Refund Rules

- 1. We will make all Refunds in accordance with State law, including <u>RCW 28B.95.110</u>, Program rules and policies, and Section 529 of the Code.
- 2. We will pay Refunds only for Units held in an Account for a minimum of two calendar years or such shorter period as may be required under state or federal laws, regulations, or policies or as directed by court order.
- 3. We may charge fees or a penalty for Refunds as set forth in greater detail in *VI.C. Reasons for Refunds— Penalty Fees* below. We will deduct all outstanding fees and the Program Refund Penalty from Account payments. We calculate any refund fees based on the amount of time the Account has been open, using the date that we accepted the Enrollment Form.
- 4. Refunds may be submitted using your online account. We will pay Refunds to you (or your Student, if specified in writing by submitting a paper Refund/Cancellation Request form with the Account Owner's notarized signature) or as otherwise described in your Agreement.
- 5. Subject to any further restrictions imposed by state or federal law or regulations, or Program limitations as indicated below, you must make all requests for a Refund from your Account within 10 years after the Benefit Use Year or the first Distribution date for your Account, whichever is later, unless we approve your written request for an extension before that time. If you request a Refund due to a Scholarship, you must request the refund during the Academic Year in which the Scholarship was awarded.

#### B. Request for Refund

- 1. Only the Account Owner may request a Refund of amounts credited to the Account except as described within this Agreement.
- 2. You can request a Refund online or by paper form. Depending on the type of request, we may require supporting documentation to be included with your Refund request. Refund requests submitted by paper form must be notarized. Electronic notaries are not accepted. All Refunds are subject to the terms of the *GET Refund/Cancellation Policy* (available on the GET Forms page of the WA529 website (529.wa.gov/get/forms-get) or by contacting the Program) in effect on the date of the Refund request.
- 3. Except as specified in this Agreement, we do not allow partial Refunds.

#### C. Reasons for Refunds - Penalty Fees

- 1. **Qualified Refunds**. We will refund Tuition Units and will not assess a Program Refund Penalty or refund fees for Qualified Refunds. You must submit the following documentation with the request form:
  - a. **Death.** Upon the death of a Student, your request must be accompanied by a copy of the Student's death certificate.
  - b. **Disability**. Upon the disability of a Student, your request must be accompanied by appropriate documentation from a medical professional demonstrating that the Student is unable to do any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment that can be expected to result in death or be of long-continued and indefinite duration.
  - c. Scholarship (or attendance at a U.S. service academy). Upon the Student's receipt of a Scholarship, your request must be accompanied by documentation of the Scholarship, including the awarding entity, the amount of the Scholarship, and the term it was awarded (within the current Academic Year). Qualified Refunds in connection with a Scholarship are limited to the Scholarship award (or cost of advanced education in connection with the Student's attendance at a U.S. service academy), not to exceed 200 Units per Academic Year (plus eligible Units from prior Benefit Use Years). You must request Scholarship Refunds during the Academic Year the Scholarship is awarded. We will not process retroactive or cumulative Scholarship Refunds. You may request a Qualified Refund without a Program Refund Penalty for the cash value of Scholarships received by the Student for the year the Scholarship is received. Instead of requesting a Qualified Refund, you may use an amount equivalent to the Scholarship to pay for the Student's other Qualified Higher Education Expenses.
- 2. **Nonqualified Refunds.** We assess a Program Refund Penalty and other refund fees on Nonqualified Refunds, unless the Nonqualified Refund is due to a Student's graduation, or completion of a degree or certification.

### D. Payment of Refund

- 1. **Units Eligible for Refund**. For Tuition Units to be refunded, the following must occur:
  - a. **Lump Sum Plan.** You must hold your Units for two years.
  - b. **Custom Monthly Plan.** Your Custom Monthly Plan must be paid in full, there must be no outstanding fees, and the Agreement must have been in effect for two years before any Units may be refunded. If your Custom Monthly Plan is not paid in full, we will convert the plan to a Lump Sum Plan and refund your Units according to the Lump Sum Plan.
- 2. **Limits on Refunded Units.** For approved Refunds, we will refund all Units that have met the two-year wait requirement, minus any Program Refund Penalty and other refund fees, except Refunds requested due to Student non-attendance. In this case, the Refund is limited to 200 Units per Academic Year. We will make the Refund no sooner than 90 days after we receive your completed Refund/Cancellation Request form and any other required documentation. You must complete the Refund/Cancellation Request form each Academic Year for the Refund of additional Units until all Units are refunded.
- 3. **Refund Amount.** We will calculate the amount of any Refund pursuant to the terms of your Agreement. We base the Refund amount paid on the current Unit Payout Value, as determined by the Committee, at the time we approve the Refund unless otherwise required by State law. The Refund will subtract any applicable Program Refund Penalties, refund fees, or other outstanding fees or charges.
- **E.** Refund Requests Due to Bankruptcy. Certain funds held in your Account may be protected against bankruptcy. See *Creditor Protection* on page 29 in the Your Account section. If you request a Refund due to bankruptcy, either you or the bankruptcy trustee must provide us with a copy of the bankruptcy filing. The Units will be valued at the Unit Payout Value in effect at the time we approve the Refund. We will deduct all outstanding fees, but we will not assess a Program Refund Penalty or other penalties or fees. We will make payments as directed by the bankruptcy trustee.
- **F. Refund Decision Appeal Process.** If we deny your Refund request, you may ask for reconsideration by submitting an appeal to the Program Director within 10 business days after the date of the denial notification. If the Director denies your appeal, you may submit an appeal to the Committee Chair within 10 business days

after the date of the notification of the Director's denial, asking for further consideration. The Committee Chair will consider the merits of the request and render a final decision on behalf of GET.

#### VII. ROLLOVER DISTRIBUTIONS

- A. Rollovers to Other 529 Plans. Upon submitting an Outgoing Rollover Request form, you may transfer all assets in your Account to another 529 Plan. Federal law allows only one Rollover for the same Student during a 12-month period. We will pay out all Rollovers at the Unit Payout Value in effect at the time we receive your properly completed Outgoing Rollover Request form. A Rollover will not be initiated until the assets have been in your Account for at least two years.
- B. Rollovers to WA529 Invest. You can transfer assets directly between GET and WA529 Invest for the same Student. GET to WA529 Invest Rollovers must be for the entire GET balance. This transfer of assets would be considered a Rollover for federal tax purposes and is therefore subject to the same restrictions described above under *VII.A. Rollovers to Other 529 Plans* of this Agreement. You can initiate a Rollover of your Account to WA529 Invest by logging in to your online GET Account profile. Alternatively, you can first open a WA529 Invest account and then complete the WA529 Invest Rollover form, which is available on our website. A Rollover will not be processed until the assets have been in your Account for at least two years.
- C. Rollovers to Qualified ABLE Programs. You may transfer assets in your Account to a Qualified ABLE Program, subject to the applicable annual ABLE contribution maximum (see IRS Publication 907). To qualify as an ABLE Rollover Distribution, you must reinvest the amount distributed into a Qualified ABLE Program within 60 days of the distribution date. ABLE Rollover Distributions may be subject to certain state taxes but are generally exempt from federal income taxes and the Distribution Tax. An ABLE Rollover Distribution will not be processed until the assets have been in your Account for at least two years.
- D. 529 Plan to Roth IRA Rollovers. As of January 1, 2024, under certain conditions, you will be permitted to rollover assets from your Account to a Roth IRA account maintained for the benefit of the Student of your Account without incurring federal income tax or penalties. You are permitted to roll over a lifetime maximum of \$35,000 per Student and your Account must have been open for at least 15 years ending with the date of the rollover. Subject to Roth IRA annual contribution limits, rollovers cannot exceed the aggregate amount contributed and earnings attributable to those contributions made before the 5-year period ending on the date of the Distribution. Additional requirements and limitations may apply to a 529 Plan rollover to a Roth IRA account, including under the federal Roth IRA rules and guidance. Please consult with your financial professional or tax advisor regarding the applicability of 529-to-Roth IRA rollovers to your personal situation.

#### VIII. FEES/PENALTIES

We will establish fees and penalties and adjust them from time to time. The current Program schedule of fees is included on page 27, under the *Prices and Fees* section. By executing your Agreement, you agree that we have the right to deduct fees and penalties, including the Program Refund Penalty, if applicable, before we pay any Distribution or Refund. This may reduce the number of Units credited to your Account.

#### IX. AGREEMENT CANCELLATION

- A. Cancellation by Account Owner. You may cancel and close your Account under the following circumstances. Account cancellations are non-reversible. You cannot reopen or add new contributions to an Account once it has been closed. Please see Federal Tax Information on pages 33-35. Cancellations may be submitted in your online account, or by the Refund/Cancellation Request Form, which requires a notarized signature.
  - 1. **Within six months**. You may cancel your Account within six months after we receive the initial payment. We will return all payments, minus any outstanding fees or contributions from WA529 for promotions and incentives.

2. **Accounts with contributions of \$500 or less**. You may cancel your Account at any time if you have paid \$500 or less into your Account. We will return all payments to the Account Owner, minus any outstanding fees or contributions from WA529 promotions and incentives.

#### B. Cancellation by the Program

- 1. We may cancel an Agreement immediately if: (i) you have supplied materially false or misleading information or have made a material misrepresentation on or in connection with your Enrollment Form or this Agreement; (ii) you fail to provide a valid Social Security number for you and/or your Student within 30 days after the date of enrollment; (iii) the value of the Tuition Units held in your Account as then calculated is less than an amount we determine to be minimal; (iv) your initial payment is dishonored; or (v) you fail to comply with the terms of this Agreement (other than failure to make a monthly payment by the monthly due date) and do not correct the failure within 30 days after receiving notice of the failure.
- 2. We will automatically terminate your Agreement 10 years after your Student reaches the projected Benefit Use Year or 10 years after the initial Distribution date, whichever is later. This time can be extended for any active service in the uniformed services as defined in <a href="RCW 73.16.031">RCW 73.16.031</a>. We will notify you of your options, including your right to a Refund prior to the termination of the Account. We may pay the then-current value of Tuition Units under the Agreement to you as a Nonqualified Refund after deducting the Program Refund Penalty and any other outstanding fees. A Nonqualified Refund may have significant negative tax effects (see *Federal Tax Information* on pages 33-35). Once the account is terminated the funds will be held for a minimum of one year, before sending them to the Department of Revenue as Unclaimed Property.
- **C.** Extension Requests. You may request a one-time five-year extension to the 10-year period allowed to use the Units in your Account as discussed in *V.E. Timing and Maximum Distribution* above. We must receive the extension request while your Account is still active. For purposes of requesting an extension, an Account is considered inactive when it has a zero-unit balance. The one-time extension will add five years to the existing 10-year usage period.
- **D. Cancellation Fees.** In the event of a full cancellation of your Agreement, we may deduct any applicable Program Refund Penalty and any other unpaid fees and charges from amounts credited to the Account and will then remit any remaining amounts on deposit to the Account Owner.
- E. Account Conversion. If a Custom Monthly Plan is not in good standing (no payments have been made for at least six (6) consecutive months and you have not made alternative payment arrangements with our office), we may convert the Account to a Lump Sum Plan Account. We will use monthly payments on a converted Account to purchase the number of Units available at the prices in effect on each payment date. After conversion, you may only purchase Lump Sum Plan Units for that Account. Under this scenario, any payments made between July 1, 2015 and October 31, 2017 (when GET was not open for new unit purchases) will be applied at \$113, the Unit Purchase Price in effect at that time.

#### X. PROGRAM TERMINATION

- **A. Declaration of Termination.** If the State declares that the Program is not financially feasible or, for any other reason, determines that the Program will be terminated, we will cease to accept any further enrollments or allow new Tuition Unit purchases.
- **B.** Remaining Tuition Units. The remaining Tuition Units for all Students who have either enrolled in an Eligible Institution or who are within four (4) years of their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday will be honored until those Tuition Units have been exhausted, or for 10 State fiscal years from the date the Program was terminated, whichever comes first. All other Account Owners will receive a Refund equal to the current value of the Tuition Units in effect at the time of termination, as determined by the Committee. We will not assess refund fees for Refunds issued in conjunction with the termination of the Program.
- **C. Refunds at End of 10-Year Closeout Period.** At the end of the 10-year closeout period, we will refund any Tuition Units remaining unused at the Unit Payout Value in effect at that time.

**D. Remaining Amounts.** At the end of the 10-year closeout period, we will deposit in the State General Fund all other amounts not needed to make refunds or to pay for administrative costs.

#### XI. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- A. State Guarantee. The state of Washington guarantees that 100 purchased Units will always equal the actual cost of one Academic Year of resident undergraduate Tuition and State-Mandated Fees at Washington's most expensive public university when your Student uses those Units to pay for qualified expenses, regardless of how much Tuition and State-Mandated Fees have changed over time. This means that if you buy one Unit, it will be worth 1/100th of future Tuition and State-Mandated Fees for an Academic Year. The State does not, however, guarantee that the Unit Payout Value will exceed the Unit Purchase Price.
- **B.** Records. Program records are subject to the public disclosure laws of the State (<u>Chapter 42.56 RCW</u>) and the exemptions (<u>RCW 42.56.320(2)</u>) provided by those laws.
- **C. Washington Law Governs.** The laws of the state of Washington will govern this Agreement. You agree that venue and jurisdiction over any disputes in connection with the Program or your Agreement will be exclusively in Thurston County, Washington, Superior Court, regardless of any conflict of laws considerations.
- **D. Amendments.** We reserve the right to amend this Agreement to the extent required by law, to make technical corrections, to the extent necessary or desirable to preserve favorable tax treatment under federal and State law, or for reasons in the interest of Account Owners, Students, and the Program as determined by us in our sole discretion. This Master Agreement supersedes all previous Master Agreements.
- **E. Severability.** If any court of competent jurisdiction finds any portion of this Agreement or the Enrollment Form to be invalid or unenforceable, the invalid or unenforceable portion will be severed from the Agreement or the Enrollment Form, as applicable, and the remainder of the Agreement and/or Enrollment Form will remain in full force and effect.
- **F. Purchases by Persons Employed or Related to the Program.** Members of the Committee, Program staff, and persons employed by service providers in connection with the Program may purchase Tuition Units as consistent with State and federal law and upon the same terms and conditions as the public at large.
- **G. Inactive Accounts.** We may close an Account when there is a zero-unit balance. Contributions will no longer be accepted for Accounts that have been closed. If your Account has been closed and you want to purchase additional Units, you must open a new Account during an open enrollment period.
- H. Unclaimed Funds. Under certain circumstances, if we issue a check to you, your Student, or an Eligible Institution, it has not been cashed, and efforts to contact the individual or entity to whom the check is made payable are unsuccessful for at least one (1) year, the funds will be considered abandoned according to the Washington Revised Uniform Unclaimed Property Act (Chapter 63.30 RCW). If the funds remain abandoned, they may, without proper claim by the owner of the funds, be transferred to the Washington State Department of Revenue as unclaimed property.
- I. Notarial Acts. Some GET forms require signing in the presence of a notary to verify your identity. The notary's seal and signature must match exactly. Electronic notaries are not accepted. If the notary section of a form is improperly completed, the form will be null and void and subsequently rejected. If a form is rejected, you will need to submit a new, properly completed form. All original notarized forms must be sent by mail and received by WA529 within 60 days of the notary signature date.
- J. **Mailing Addresses.** We periodically match and update the addresses on record for your Account against a change of address database maintained by the U.S. Postal Service to reduce the possibility that important communications about your Account sent First Class Mail will be undeliverable. It is your responsibility to keep all Account information current.
- **K. Fraudulent Activity.** We will honor instructions from any person who provides correct identifying information either online, using your user ID and password, or by paper form that is duly signed and dated. We are not responsible for fraudulent transactions we believe to be genuine. Accordingly, you bear the risk of

loss if unauthorized persons request a Distribution from your Account. It is your responsibility to review all Account information and to promptly notify us of any unusual activity.

- **L. Account Owner's Representations and Acknowledgements.** I, as Account Owner, represent and warrant to, and acknowledge and agree with, the State and the Program regarding the matters set forth in this Agreement, including that:
  - I have carefully reviewed all Program information provided by the State, including the Program Details Booklet, and have had the opportunity to seek the advice of tax, legal, and financial professionals regarding the appropriateness of GET for me.
  - I have been given an opportunity to ask questions and receive answers concerning the terms and conditions of the Program and this Agreement.
  - I have been given an opportunity to obtain any additional information needed to complete my Enrollment Form and/or verify the accuracy of any information I have furnished.
  - I have not and understand that I may not rely on any representations or information regarding GET except as set forth in this Agreement.
  - I cannot use my Account as collateral for any loan. I understand that any attempt to use my Account as collateral for a loan would be void. I also understand that neither the State nor the Program will lend any assets to my Student or to me.
  - Except as described in this Agreement, I will not assign or transfer any interest in my Account. I understand that except as provided under Washington law, any attempt to assign or transfer that interest is void.
  - I am, and my Student is, either a citizen or a resident alien of the United States.
  - I or my Student was a Washington resident at the time of Enrollment.
  - Neither the state of Washington, the Committee, the Program, any other agency of the state of Washington, nor any other counsel, advisor, or consultant retained by, or on behalf of, those entities, nor any employee, officer, or official of any of those entities (collectively, the Plan Officials) is liable for a failure of the Program to qualify as or to remain a 529 Plan, including any subsequent loss of favorable tax treatment under state or federal law.
  - My statements, representations, warranties, and covenants will survive the termination of my Account.

# **Prices and Fees**

#### 2025-26 GET Unit Purchase Price

Annually, before the GET Enrollment Period begins, the Committee sets the GET Unit Purchase Price. The Office of the State Actuary (OSA) provides an analysis to help the Committee set the Unit Purchase Price. This section summarizes OSA's pricing analysis approach and the Committee's selected 2025-26 Unit Purchase Price.

**Expected Costs.** The Unit Purchase Price includes an expected costs component that estimates how much the Program needs to collect to cover future Tuition and State-Mandated Fees based on current tuition rates and adjusted for future assumed investment returns and tuition growth.

- **Investment Returns.** OSA currently assumes the long-term annual rate of investment return is 5.40% based on WSIB's most recent capital market assumptions and the Program's long-term asset allocation targets (see the *Investment Plan* section starting on page 38). Actual investment returns may vary from OSA's assumptions.
- **Tuition Growth Assumptions.** OSA provided in-state tuition growth assumptions with consideration for the tuition-setting policy established in Chapter 36, Laws of 2015, 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Legislative Session (2ESSB 5954) (see table to the right). Actual tuition growth may vary from OSA's assumptions.

Best Estimate Tuition Growth Assumptions		
Academic	Tuition	
Year(s)	Growth	
2025-27	3.30%	
2027-29	3.40%	
2029-30+	4.35%	

**Program Expenses.** The Unit Purchase Price includes an expense component that determines the amount each future unit sold should contribute to the

Program's assets for the payment of future Program administrative expenses. OSA estimates this amount based on the long-term cost of administering unredeemed units. OSA determines this estimate by dividing the present value of estimated Program expenses (as provided by the Program) by the number of unredeemed units as of the Program's most recent valuation date.

**Reserve.** The purpose of the reserve component is to ensure the long-term health of the Program and reduce the chance that the Program's future obligations will exceed its assets available to pay those future obligations. OSA's price analysis measures the adequacy of the Program's target reserve level under several scenarios, including higher-than-expected tuition growth, lower-than-expected investment returns, and the combination of those two scenarios. The Committee's current pricing policy targets a 15% reserve, which may be adjusted up or down to balance risk and affordability of Tuition Units.

**Amortization.** State law (<u>RCW 28B.95.030(12)</u>) directs the Committee to include an amortization component in the Unit Purchase Price when necessary to increase the Program's best-estimate funded status. The Committee did not include this component in setting the 2025-26 Unit Purchase Price.

**Price limit.** Current law limits the annual Unit Price at no more than 10% over the current Payout Value if the following conditions are met: the Program's funded status as of July 1st of each year is above 120% and the State's current law on tuition policy remains in effect (see *IV.E.3. Maximum Allowable Unit Price* of the Agreement).

**Setting the Unit Purchase Price.** The Committee discusses and evaluates the information and assumptions presented in OSA's pricing analysis. The 2025-26 Unit Pricing Analysis included a Best Estimate Unit Purchase Price of \$123, along with a Best Estimate Range of \$108-\$139. The Maximum Allowable Unit Purchase Price allowed by current state law is \$140. According to OSA, any Unit Purchase Price that falls within the Best Estimate Range is considered reasonable. After discussing the analysis, the Committee selected a 2025-26 GET Unit Purchase Price of \$123.76.

2025-26 GET Unit Purchase Price Components	
<b>Expected Costs:</b> Covers the expected present value of the cost of future Tuition and State-Mandated Fees	\$104.57
Expenses: Contributes to GET's administrative expenses	\$2.37
<b>Reserve</b> : Covers unexpected future costs (e.g. higher than expected tuition growth or lower than expected investment returns)	\$16.82
Unit Purchase Price Adopted by Committee: Sum of all components	\$123.76
Premium/discount compared to the 2025-26 Unit Payout Value of \$127.85 (effective August 1, 2025 – July 31, 2026)	-3.2%

# **Program Fees**

Type of Fee	Amount	
Account Fees		
Late Payment Fee For established Custom Monthly Plans, payments are due on the 15 <sup>th</sup> of each month. If we do not receive your payment by the 25 <sup>th</sup> (10 days after the due date), a late fee will be added to your Account.	\$10	
Dishonored Payment Fee (Automatic withdrawal, electronic payments, and checks)	\$25 or the actual fee charged by the bank, whichever is greater	
Refund Fees		
Program Refund Penalty For all Refunds except in the event of death, disability, Scholarship, attendance at a U.S. service academy, or graduation/completion of a degree or certificate.	10% of earnings or \$100, whichever is greater	
Account Cancellation Fee	\$10	
Account Maintenance Fee	\$1.70 per month while the account was open and active	

# **Your Account**

# **Qualified Higher Education Expenses (QHEE)**

You can use your Units to pay any QHEE, as summarized in the chart below. For more information on what types of expenses are considered QHEE, please review *IRS Publication 970 – Tax Benefits for Education*. The publication is available on the IRS website (irs.gov/forms-pubs/about-publication-970) or by calling the IRS at 800-829-1040.

Tuition	Full-time or part-time tuition. Regular academic year or summer program. Undergraduate or graduate/professional program.
State-Mandated Fees	Fees a state requires its public colleges and universities to charge. Washington State fees include: operating, building, and services and activities fees (RCW 28B.15.020 and RCW 28B.15.041).
College-specific fees	School-specific fees, like technology fees, library fees, recreation fees, and fees to secure repayment of bonded indebtedness, are not considered state-mandated fees. These fees are not included when determining the GET Payout Value amount. You may use GET Units to pay these fees after paying tuition and state-mandated fees with extra Units available.
Room and board on-campus or off-campus	Actual room and board expenses charged by a college or university for campus housing and meal plans or certain off-campus rent and food costs. Students must attend at least half-time. Expenses cannot exceed room and board allowances calculated by the college or university in its Cost of Attendance budget. (Check with your school's financial aid office to determine the room and board allowance.)
Books, supplies, and equipment	The college course must require these expenses.
Computers, software, and internet access	Purchase of computer or peripheral equipment, computer software, and internet access to be used primarily by a Student while enrolled.
Special needs	Expenses of a Student with specific needs that are necessary for the Student's higher education.
K-12 Expenses	Expenses (up to \$10,000 annually, and up to \$20,000 annually effective January 1, 2026) at elementary and secondary public, private, and religious schools.
Apprenticeship Program Expenses	Certain expenses associated with apprenticeship programs registered and certified by the Secretary of Labor under the National Apprenticeship Act.
Credentialing Expenses	Tuition, fees, books, supplies, and equipment required for the enrollment or attendance in a recognized postsecondary credential program; fees for testing if required to obtain or maintain a Recognized Postsecondary Credential; and fees for continuing education if required to maintain a Recognized Postsecondary Credential.
Education Loan Repayments	Principal and interest on Qualified Education Loans of a beneficiary or the sibling of a beneficiary. This provision applies to repayments up to a lifetime limit of \$10,000 per individual.

#### **Using Your Units**

You can use your Units at nearly any public or private college, university, technical school, for Apprenticeship Program Expenses or for Credentialing Expenses in the U.S., as well as some colleges and institutions in other countries. A college, university or technical school is eligible if it participates in federal financial aid programs through the U.S. Department of Education. For information about schools or to check if your school is FAFSA-eligible, use the FAFSA search tool at 529.wa.gov/get/pay-for-school. To search for eligible apprenticeships, visit apprenticeship.gov/apprenticeship-job-finder.

GET will email you information about using your Units in the summer before your Student's Benefit Use Year. '. To use your Account, it must have been open for at least 24 months; Lump Sum Units must be two (2) years old and Custom Monthly Plans must be paid in full. You can use up to 200 eligible Units per academic year, plus any unused Units rolled over from previous years of eligibility.

In general, the GET Program will pay the college or university directly for Tuition and State-Mandated Fees, and on-campus room and board. You may also request reimbursement from us for these and other QHEEs, already paid. You should retain records of these expenses for tax purposes.

#### **Notices and Communications**

Any notices you need to send to us must be sent by mail, email, fax or by Secure Messaging from your online GET account. Visit <u>529.wa.gov/get/contact-us</u> for current contact information.

We are committed to increased efficiency and reduced cost by using email communication and online processes whenever possible. Therefore, our default method of communication will be via email and/or online Account notifications. You may request paper communication by contacting us or indicating that preference in the Communications section, found in the My Profile tab of your online Account.

#### **Creditor Protection**

Pursuant to Washington law (RCW 6.15.010(1)(f)), funds used to purchase Tuition Units more than two years prior to the date of a bankruptcy filing or court judgment will be considered excluded personal assets of the Account Owner.

Bankruptcy legislation protects certain assets in federal bankruptcy proceedings that have been contributed to a 529 plan account. However, bankruptcy protection for 529 plan assets is limited and has certain conditions. To be protected, your Student must be a child, stepchild, grandchild, or step-grandchild (including a legally adopted child or foster child) of the individual who files for bankruptcy protection. In addition, contributions made to all 529 plan accounts for the same Student are protected subject to the following limits:

- Contributions made less than 365 days before the bankruptcy filing are not protected.
- Contributions made between 365 and 720 days before the bankruptcy filing are protected up to \$8,575 effective April 1, 2025, an amount currently revised every three (3) years by the Judicial Conference of the United States.
- Contributions made more than 720 days before the bankruptcy filing are fully protected.

This information is not meant to constitute individual tax or bankruptcy advice. Please consult your own advisors concerning your individual circumstances.

# Important Risks You Should Know About

You should carefully consider the information in this section, as well as the other information in this Program Details Booklet, before making any decisions about opening an Account or making any additional contributions. We do not provide legal, financial, or tax advice. You should consult an attorney or a qualified financial or tax advisor with any legal, business, or tax questions you may have.

#### Suitability

We make no representation regarding the suitability or appropriateness of GET for you. Other programs may be more appropriate depending on your financial status, tax situation, risk tolerance, age, investment goals, savings needs, and the time horizons of you or your Student.

# **Internal Revenue Service Regulations Not Final**

As of the date of this disclosure statement, the IRS has not issued final tax regulations regarding programs satisfying the requirements of Section 529 of the Code. In addition, we have not sought, nor have we received a private letter ruling from the IRS regarding the status of GET under Section 529 of the Code. We may, in our sole discretion, seek a ruling in the future.

#### **Discretion of WSIB**

Neither you nor your Student may direct the investment of any contribution to GET or any earnings thereon either directly or indirectly. WSIB has the sole discretion to determine how to invest payments made for the purchase of Tuition Units. The Enabling Legislation requires WSIB to adopt an investment policy (Investment Policy) governing the investment of Tuition Unit payments. WSIB may, in its sole discretion, determine to amend its Investment Policy at any time, including investing in other asset types and by using additional or different managers to further diversify its investments.

# **Value of Tuition Units May Decrease**

If Tuition and State-Mandated Fees decrease, your Units may decrease in value. We measure Account values in Units where 100 Units equals the cost of one year of Tuition and State-Mandated Fees at Washington's highest-priced public university. We value individual Units at 1/100th of that cost. If State law or tuition policies change in the future, including changes to <a href="Chapter 28B.95">Chapter 28B.95</a> RCW, the Committee may be required to revise Program policies to ensure the Program's Actuarial Soundness while protecting Account Owners. However, in the event of a decrease in the value of your Units, there can be no assurance that the value of your Units will increase as a result of any Washington State law change or Committee action.

### **Effect of Future Law Changes**

Future changes to federal or state laws or court or interpretive rulings could adversely affect 529 Plans generally, the terms and conditions of GET, or your Units, even retroactively. GET is subject to the provisions of any changes to or revocation of <a href="Chapter 28B.95">Chapter 28B.95</a> RCW (see *Key Events* on pages 36-37 for examples) and Section 529 of the Code. It is our intention to take advantage of Section 529; therefore, GET is vulnerable to tax law changes or court or interpretive rulings that might alter the application of federal and/or state taxes to your particular situation.

### **Cost of Certain Payment Plans**

The GET Unit Purchase Price is determined based on several factors. To sustain the State Guarantee, we must derive revenue from the payments we receive. Therefore, the total cost of Units purchased through a Custom Monthly Plan (unavailable for purchase until further notice) is higher than the same number of Lump Sum Plan Units purchased at the same Unit Purchase Price. This is because with Custom Monthly Plans the amount of time to derive revenue is shorter. With either the Lump Sum Plan or Custom Monthly Plan, your payments may total more than the current Unit Payout Value.

#### **Tax Considerations**

The federal tax consequences associated with participating in GET can be complex. You should consult a tax advisor regarding the application of tax laws to your individual circumstances (see *Federal Tax Information* on pages 33-35).

#### **Securities Laws**

The Agreement between you and the State will not be registered as securities. The interests in the Agreements have not been registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission, nor with the securities regulatory authorities of any state. In addition, the interests in the Agreements have not been registered as an investment company under the Investment Company Act of 1940.

#### **Death of Account Owner**

If an Account Owner Survivor has not been named on an Account and the Account Owner dies, control and ownership of the Account will become subject to the estate laws of the state in which the Account Owner resided. If an Account Owner Survivor is a minor at the time of the Account Owner's death, then a Guardian must be named by the minor Account Owner Survivor's parent or Guardian.

#### **Death of Account Owner Survivor**

If the Account Owner Survivor predeceases the Account Owner and the Account Owner fails to designate another Account Owner Survivor or the Account Owner and Account Owner Survivor die simultaneously, control and ownership of the Account, upon the Account Owner's death, will become subject to the estate laws of the state in which the Account Owner resided.

#### **Financial Aid**

A Student may wish to participate in federal, state, or institutional loans, grants, or other programs to fund higher education. Savings in a GET account may impact the Student's eligibility to participate in need-based financial aid programs.

In making decisions about eligibility for financial aid programs offered by the U.S. government and the amount of financial aid required, the U.S. Department of Education considers a variety of factors, including the assets owned by the Student and the assets owned by the Student's parents. Generally, assets owned by a Student will have a greater impact on financial aid eligibility than assets owned by the Student's parents.

- For federal financial aid purposes, Account assets will be considered:
  - o assets of the Student's parents, if the Student is a dependent student and the Account Owner is the parent or the Student, or
    - o assets of the Student, if the Student is the owner of the Account and not a dependent student.

Assets owned by the parent of a Student who is not a dependent are not considered for purposes of the FAFSA.

- Since the FAFSA treatment of Account assets may have a material adverse effect on your Student's eligibility to receive valuable benefits under financial aid programs, you or your Student should check:
  - o applicable laws or regulations;
  - o with the financial aid office of an Eligible Educational Institution; and/or
  - o with your financial or tax advisor regarding the impact of an investment in GET on need-based financial aid programs.

GET accounts may also be considered when determining eligibility for State financial aid programs. Check with the financial aid office of an Eligible Educational Institution for more information.

The federal and nonfederal financial aid program treatments of assets in the Program are subject to change at any time. You should, therefore, check and periodically monitor the applicable laws and other official guidance, as well as specific Program and institutional rules and requirements, to determine the impact of your Account on eligibility under particular financial aid programs.

### **Medicaid Eligibility**

It is unclear how local and state government agencies will treat 529 plan assets for the purpose of Medicaid eligibility. Although there are federal guidelines under Title XIX of the Social Security Act of 1965, each state administers its Medicaid program and rules could vary greatly from one state to the next. You should check with an attorney, a tax advisor, and/or your local Medicaid administrator regarding the impact of an investment in GET on Medicaid eligibility.

# GET Not Designed for K-12 Tuition or Education Loan Repayment

We have not designed the GET Program to assist you in reaching your K-12 Tuition or Education Loan Repayment savings goals. You should consult a tax advisor and a financial advisor about saving with GET considering your individual circumstances.

# **Federal Tax Information**

#### General

This section describes some of the federal tax considerations you should be aware of when participating in GET and is based on relevant provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (Code), proposed regulations issued by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), relevant legislative history, and official interpretations of applicable federal law as of the date of this Program Details Booklet.

This discussion is by no means exhaustive and is not meant as tax advice. The federal tax consequences associated with participating in GET can be complex. Before you enroll in GET, you should consult an independent tax advisor regarding the application of tax laws to your individual circumstances.

Some states may impose taxes and/or penalties on contributions to or withdrawals from a 529 Plan offered by other states. These penalties and taxes may, in certain cases, offset some or all of the federal tax benefits discussed below.

### Risk of Tax Law Changes

The IRS has issued only proposed regulations and certain other guidance under Section 529. Final regulations could affect the tax considerations or require changes in the terms of GET. In addition, Congress can amend the Tax Code and eliminate the provisions of Section 529 that are now in effect.

# **Federal Tax-Deferred Earnings**

Any earnings on contributions are tax-deferred, which means your Account assets grow free of current federal income tax and are not subject to federal income tax if withdrawn to pay for Qualified Higher Education Expenses.

#### Federal Gift/Estate Tax

If your gift contributions in the 2025 tax year, together with any other gifts to the Student (over and above those made to your Account), do not exceed \$19,000 per year (\$38,000 for married couples making a proper election), no gift tax will be imposed for that year. Our understanding is that gifts of up to \$95,000 can be made in a single year (\$190,000 for married couples making a proper election) for a Student. You may elect to apply the contribution against the annual exclusion equally over a five-year period. This allows you to move assets into tax-deferred investments and out of your estate more quickly. The limits for estate and gift tax exclusions are adjusted annually. Consult the IRS website (irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/estate-and-gift-taxes) for more information. Contact your tax advisor about this or any other tax-related questions you may have.

If you die with assets remaining in your Account, the Account's value will generally not be included in your estate for federal estate tax purposes, unless you elect the five-year averaging and die before the end of the fifth year. If your Student dies, and assets remain in your Account, the value of your Account may be included in the Student's estate for federal tax purposes. Further rules regarding gifts and the generation-skipping transfer tax may apply in the case of withdrawals, changes of Students, and other situations. The state law treatment of gift and estate taxes varies so you should check with your tax advisor for the specific effect of federal and state (if any) gift tax and generation-skipping transfer tax on your situation.

#### **Transfers and Rollovers**

You can transfer assets (also known as a Rollover) for the same Student from another 529 Plan to your Account without adverse tax consequences only if no other Rollovers for the Student from any 529 Plan account have occurred within the prior 12 months. You may also transfer money in your Account to another Account, or your entire Account to an account in another 529 Plan (including any other 529 Plan offered by the state of Washington). You may avoid incurring federal income tax or a Distribution Tax if the funds are placed in another Account or 529 Plan account within 60 days of the withdrawal date.

Changing the Student on your Account could potentially cause gift and/or generation-skipping transfer tax consequences to you and your Student. Because gift and generation-skipping transfer tax issues are complex, you should consult with your tax advisor.

#### **ABLE Rollover Distributions**

You may transfer all or part of the money in your Account to an account in a Qualified ABLE Program without adverse federal income tax consequences (and no Federal Penalty Tax). The ABLE Rollover Distribution must:

- 1. be completed within 60 days of the withdrawal from your Account;
- 2. be to an account for the same Beneficiary or a new Beneficiary who is a Member of the Family of the original Beneficiary; and
- 3. not exceed the annual contribution limit in Section 529A(b)(2)(B)(i) of the Code.

#### Transfers from WA529 Invest for the Same Student

You can transfer assets directly between WA529 Invest and GET for the same Student. This transfer of assets would be considered a rollover for federal tax purposes and is therefore subject to the restrictions described above under *Transfers and Rollovers*.

### **Coverdell Education Savings Accounts (ESA)**

Generally, contributions may be made to both an ESA (defined in Section 530 of the Code) and a 529 Plan in the same year on behalf of the same Student. However, the same educational expenses cannot be claimed for tax-exempt withdrawals from both the ESA and the qualified tuition program.

#### **Education Tax Credits**

You and your Student, if eligible, can take advantage of American Opportunity and Lifetime Learning Tax Credits without affecting your participation in GET or its benefits. American Opportunity and Lifetime Learning Credits can be claimed in the same year that a tax-exempt withdrawal is taken from a 529 Plan provided the withdrawal is not used for the same educational expenses.

#### All Withdrawals

Withdrawals may be comprised of: (1) principal, which is not taxable when distributed, and (2) earnings, if any, which may be subject to federal income tax. We determine the earnings portion based on IRS rules and report to the IRS and the recipient. However, we do not report whether the withdrawal is a Distribution, Qualified Refund, Refunded Distribution, Rollover Distribution, Nonqualified Refund, or an Education Loan Repayment. You are responsible for preparing and filing the appropriate forms when completing your federal income tax return and for paying any applicable tax directly to the IRS.

#### **Distributions**

If you take a Distribution of Units, your Student generally does not have to include as income any earnings withdrawn for the applicable taxable year if the total withdrawals for that year are less than or equal to the total withdrawals for Qualified Higher Education Expenses for that year minus any tax-free educational assistance and expenses considered in determining any American Opportunity or Lifetime Learning Credits claimed for that taxable year.

You or your Student, as applicable, are responsible for determining the amount of the earnings portion of any withdrawal from your Account that may be taxable and are responsible for reporting any earnings that must be included in taxable income. You should retain documentation such as invoices and receipts adequate to substantiate to the IRS the qualifying use of your withdrawals.

The IRS has not provided guidance on whether a withdrawal taken after December 31 of the year in which the Qualified Higher Education Expenses were incurred and paid will be treated as a Distribution. **You should consult with your tax advisor and IRS Publication 970 for further information**.

#### **Oualified Refunds**

For federal income tax purposes, you or the Student, as applicable, may be subject to federal income tax on the earnings portion of a Qualified Refund. However, a Qualified Refund generally is not subject to the Distribution Tax.

#### **Refunded Distribution**

You may avoid incurring federal income tax or a Distribution Tax if you receive a Refunded Distribution. This refers to the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes (PATH) Act of 2015, which allows you to recontribute money that has been refunded to the Student by an Eligible Institution of higher education due to illness, unforeseen circumstances, or dropped credit hours. The Account Owner has 60 days from the date of the refund to recontribute the money into their 529 account. For additional details, see the Recontribution form on the GET forms page at 529.wa.gov/get/forms-get.

### **Education Loan Repayments**

You may take a withdrawal from your Account to repay a Qualified Education Loan for your Student or a sibling (defined in Section 152(d)(2)(B) of the Code) of your Student, up to a lifetime limit of \$10,000 per individual. However, if you make an Education Loan Repayment from your Account, Section 221(e)(1) of the Code provides that you may not also take a federal income tax deduction for any interest included in that Education Loan Repayment. It is important that you keep all records of your Distributions. We do not separately report distributions made from your Account to repay a Qualified Education Loan for a sibling of your Student.

#### **Roth IRA Rollovers**

In certain circumstances, you may roll over the assets in your Account to a Roth IRA account maintained for the benefit of the Student of your Account up to a lifetime limit of \$35,000 without incurring federal income tax or penalties. A rollover to a Roth IRA can only be made from an Account that has been maintained for at least the 15-year period ending on the date of the rollover. In addition, the rollover cannot exceed the total amount contributed to the Account, and earnings on those contributions, before the five-year period ending on the date of the rollover. Additional restrictions may apply under the federal Roth IRA rules and guidance.

It is important that you keep all records regarding contributions and earnings made to your Account to help determine your Account's eligibility to initiate a rollover to the Student's Roth IRA. You can access your Account records by logging in to your online account or by calling the GET Contact Center at 800-955-2318.

It is also important to understand the federal and state requirements, rules, and guidance regarding Roth IRAs, including contribution and income limits. You should also consult with your financial professional or tax advisor regarding the applicability of Roth IRA rollovers to your personal situation. To request a Roth IRA rollover, please submit an Outgoing Rollover – To Roth IRA Form, available at 529.wa.gov/get/forms-get.

### **Nonqualified Distributions**

You or the Student, as applicable, are subject to federal and state (if applicable) income tax and the Distribution Tax on the earnings portion of any Distribution that is not exempt from tax as described above.

# **GET Operations and Administration**

#### Plan Governance and Administration

#### **GET Prepaid Tuition Plan**

The State Legislature created GET as a 529 Plan under Section 529 of the Code to provide families with an affordable, convenient way to pay in advance for the cost of postsecondary education and reduce future reliance on debt. With the Governor's approval, the State Legislature may amend the Enabling Legislation by passing new legislation.

As required by the Enabling Legislation, the Committee governs the Program, ensuring that participants are protected and that the Program remains financially sound. The Committee meets at least quarterly to discuss legislative activities, review Program policies and investments, and make Program decisions. The Committee sets the GET Tuition Unit Purchase Price annually. The Washington Student Achievement Council administers the Program, based on the Committee's direction.

The five-member Committee consists of the executive director of the Washington Student Achievement Council, the State Treasurer, the director of the Office of Financial Management, and two citizen representatives. Except for the citizen representatives, Committee members may identify a designee to attend meetings and vote on their behalf. OSA and WSIB provide expertise and advise the Committee as needed. Committee members receive no compensation for their services to GET; however, they are entitled to reimbursement for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. The Committee has general and fiduciary responsibility for the Program.

The Enabling Legislation also requires that the Committee determine how to reinvigorate the Program to incentivize Washingtonians to enter into Agreements and purchase Tuition Units following any year when the total number of Tuition Units sold is lower than 500,000 Units.

#### **State Guarantee**

Our Agreement with you is considered a contractual obligation legally binding on the State. The State guarantees that your purchase of Tuition Units will be worth the same number of Tuition Units at the time of redemption as they were worth at the time of your original purchase. The State does not, however, guarantee that the Unit Payout Value will exceed the Unit Purchase Price. If, and only if, the money in the Program is projected to be insufficient to cover the Program's contracted expenses for a given biennium, then the State Legislature must appropriate to the Program the amount of money necessary to cover such expenses. This means that, if future tuition increases necessitate that GET pay out more money during a given biennium than is available, the State Legislature will be required by State law to appropriate State funds to cover Program expenses. The terms of the guarantee are set forth in RCW 28B.95.050.

#### Other Qualified Tuition Programs Administered by the Committee

The Committee also administers WA529 Invest. This Program Details Booklet relates only to GET. Visit 529invest.wa.gov for information and materials about WA529 Invest.

#### **Key Events**

In 2015, the State Legislature passed the College Affordability Program (CAP), which lowered tuition at the State's public colleges for the 2015-16 and 2016-17 academic years and stated that beginning in the 2017-18 academic year, annual tuition increases may be no more than the State's average annual growth rate in median hourly wage. Since the Unit Payout Value is tied to in-state public tuition, the CAP directed the Committee to maintain the 2014-15 Unit Payout Value (\$117.82) through the 2015-16 and 2016-17 academic years. The CAP further directed the Committee to, beginning in the 2017-18 academic year, make adjustments to ensure Accounts were not "decreased or diluted" as a result of lower tuition (see <a href="RCW 28B.95.030(7">RCW 28B.95.030(7)</a>).

**Account Rebasing.** In August 2017, the Committee reset the Unit Payout Value from \$117.82 to a new amount matching GET's statutory Unit Payout Value. The 2017-18 Unit Payout Value was \$103.86. Effective August 1, 2017, existing Account Owners received additional new Units (listed in account statements under "Supplemental Units") in their Accounts in a proportion equal to the difference between the \$117.82 Unit Payout Value of their purchased, Unredeemed Units as of August 1, 2017, and the 2017-18 Unit Payout Value of \$103.86.

Senate Bill 6087 (ESB 6087). During the 2018 Legislative Session, the Legislature enacted Engrossed Senate Bill 6087 (ESB 6087), which provided new account options for GET Account Owners with Unredeemed Units purchased before July 1, 2015 (see RCW 28B.95.030 subsections (8) and (9)). These options included:

- Roll their GET Account(s) over to DreamAhead (now known as WA529 Invest) to receive a special Unit Cash Value Price (UCVP) of \$143 for all Unredeemed Units purchased before July 1, 2015.
  - Qualifying Account Owners had a 90-day period between June 15, 2018, and September 12, 2018, to request
    a rollover of their GET Account(s) to DreamAhead (now known as WA529 Invest) in order to be eligible for
    the special UCVP.
- Keep their savings in their GET Account(s) and potentially be eligible for up to two adjustments that may add Units to their GET Account. We made both legislatively required adjustments to all qualifying Accounts after processing all DreamAhead (now known as WA529 Invest) rollovers and before March 1, 2019.
  - The first adjustment applied only to Accounts with an average Unit Purchase Price higher than \$117.82.
     Qualifying Accounts received additional Units based on the difference between their average Unit Purchase Price and \$117.82. This adjustment added 113,822 Units to 13,597 qualifying Accounts.
  - The second adjustment was contingent on the funded status of GET after the close of the 90-day rollover window and the completion of the first adjustment. GET's funded status was found to be above 125% at the measurement date selected by the Office of the State Actuary (OSA). As a result, we added Units to all GET Accounts with unredeemed Units purchased before July 1, 2015. This adjustment added 543,843 Units to 58,862 qualifying Accounts.

Any Units added to Accounts because of ESB 6087 can be found in Account statements under "Supplemental Units."

**Unit Maximums.** The previous lifetime maximum was 500 Units per Student, and up to 125 of those Units could be used each academic year once a Student began using Units. In 2018, as a result of Senate Bill 6087, those maximums were increased to a total of 800 Units per Student and 200 Units per year.

Maximum Allowable Unit Purchase Price. Senate Bill 5430, passed in 2021, limits the annual price of GET Units to no more than 10 percent above that year's current Unit Payout Value. This price limit applies if the current state tuition policy remains in effect and GET's funded status remains over 120%. This bill also required GET to retroactively reprice all Units purchased at the 2020-21 GET Unit Purchase Price from \$133 to \$122. For Lump Sum Plan Units, this adjustment added Units to impacted Accounts. For Custom Monthly Plans, this adjustment resulted in lower ongoing monthly payments for impacted Accounts. This adjustment added 36,949 Units to 11,480 qualifying Accounts and reduced monthly payment amounts by an average of \$18.55 for 897 qualifying Accounts.

**2019-21 Unit Price Adjustment.** In September 2021, the Committee voted to set the GET Unit Purchase Price at \$114.01 for the 2021-22 GET Enrollment Period. Because this price was lower than the 2019-20 and 2020-21 GET Unit Purchase Prices, the Committee voted to retroactively reprice all Units purchased in those two years to \$114.01. For Lump Sum Plan Units, this adjustment added Units to impacted Accounts, and for Custom Monthly Plans, this adjustment resulted in lower ongoing monthly payments for impacted Accounts.

Contribution Guarantee for Certain Accounts. In May 2022, the Committee voted to guarantee that all existing GET Accounts as of May 11, 2022 receive a total Account payout value of no less than the sum total of all Account contributions, including Custom Monthly Plan finance charges and payment processing fees. The Committee clarified that this determination and any resulting payment (if applicable) is to be made once all Tuition Units have been distributed from an Account. In May 2023, the Committee voted to amend this guarantee to include Accounts opened between May 11, 2022 and June 30, 2022. As of the publication date of this GET Program Details Booklet, the Committee has not extended this contribution guarantee to GET Accounts opened after June 30, 2022.

**Suspension of Custom Monthly Plan option**. In September 2022, the Committee voted to suspend the availability of new Custom Monthly Plans. This pause continues until further notice due to the current environment of extended low tuition growth and the availability of Lump Sum Plan Units at a price equal to or below the current Unit Payout Value. The Committee and GET staff will regularly review the Custom Monthly Plan to determine if resuming this option is beneficial to customers. Custom Monthly Plan contracts set up prior to the 2022-23 Enrollment Period remain in effect.

#### **Investment Plan**

### **Operation of the Fund**

**Pooled Accounts.** We commingle all assets received by Account Owners and hold those assets in accordance with federal and State law. We will not separately invest amounts paid under an individual Agreement but will maintain records showing the Account Owner, the Student, the amount paid, and the number of Tuition Units purchased, distributed, and refunded under an Agreement.

**Investment and Use.** We invest amounts paid under Agreements in accordance with the Investment Policy (defined below). We may apply amounts paid under Agreements to pay for or reimburse WSIB for its administrative expenses in connection with the Program.

**Reserve.** We accumulate amounts as a stabilization reserve, available to pay obligations of the Program if the Program does not otherwise have revenues in any particular year sufficient to pay those obligations. We do not hold, maintain, or invest reserve amounts separately.

**Annual Program Analysis.** In accordance with State law (<u>RCW 28B.95.080</u>), we conduct an annual evaluation of the Actuarial Soundness of the Program. We use the results of this evaluation to determine whether Unit Purchase Price adjustments are needed and, if so, how much the price will be adjusted.

The Office of the State Actuary (OSA) assists the Committee and the Washington State Legislature by providing actuarial services and consulting. OSA's three primary services for GET include:

- Prepare a bi-annual actuarial valuation of GET for the Committee. You can access copies of current and past GET Actuarial Valuation Reports at <a href="wsac.wa.gov/WA529-Static-Reports">wsac.wa.gov/WA529-Static-Reports</a> or by contacting us.
- Prepare the Unit price-setting analysis for the Committee.
- Consult, price, and communicate the effects of potential changes to the Program for the Committee or the Legislature.

# **Investment Policy**

WSIB has adopted an investment policy for the Program (Investment Policy). The Investment Policy outlines the investment policies and guidelines for investing the assets held by the Program. For more details, see WSIB Policy Number 2.35.100, available at sib.wa.gov.

**Investment Objectives.** In accordance with <u>RCW 43.33A.110</u>, Program assets (Portfolio) are managed to achieve a maximum return at a prudent level of risk. The key determinant is the identification of the prudent level of risk for the Program, considering the Program's need to meet or exceed the growth rate of tuition costs. Based on this requirement, the order of the objectives is:

- 1. Maintain the solvency of the Portfolio and the financial stability of the Program as measured by the actuary for the Program.
- 2. Ensure sufficient assets are available to fund the expected payments to be made by the Program.
- 3. Subject to numbers 1 and 2 above, try to achieve a maximum return that will meet or exceed the rate of growth in college tuition costs over a 10-year period, at a prudent level of risk.
- 4. Invest in a manner that will not compromise public confidence in the Program.

**Performance Objectives.** The performance of the Portfolio is judged relative to its investment objectives, risk constraint standards, and investment approach. The Portfolio has both a long-term absolute goal and several relative performance objectives, including:

- 1. Achieve or exceed a 2.50% real rate of return relative to inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), over a 10-year period.
- 2. Relative to asset allocation targets, generate a return equal to, or in excess of, the applicable passive benchmark portfolio.

**Balance of Risk and Return.** The overriding objective of the fund is to ensure the investment assets meet or exceed the estimated liabilities and the rate of college tuition inflation over a long time period while minimizing losses under downside risk scenarios. Given the strong funded status and built-in reserve structure, the investment portfolio is more moderately positioned along the risk/return efficient frontier.

**Asset Allocation.** WSIB reviews the asset allocation mix of investments in the Portfolio every four (4) years, or sooner if there are significant changes in the size of the Program, its funding status, or liability duration.

Capital market conditions, funding status, and liability assumptions are dynamic, not static. Consequently, the WSIB staff meets at least annually with the Committee, administrative staff, and the Program actuary to review the Portfolio and the financial status of the Program.

The fund's current funded status and reserve features, which tilt toward long-term solvency, were considered in designing an asset allocation that is expected to meet or exceed the long-term tuition growth and return targets while improving downside investment risk.

WSIB rebalances assets in the Portfolio across asset classes when market values of the assets fall outside the Investment Policy ranges. Rebalancing is accomplished first by using normal cash flow and second by the reallocation of assets across asset classes. The timing of the rebalancing is based on market opportunities and the consideration of transaction costs. The allocation of assets in the Portfolio is set at the following ranges:

Asset Allocation	Target	Range*
Public Equity	40%	35% - 45%
Fixed Income	60%	55% - 65%
Cash	0%	0% - 5%

<sup>\*</sup>These ranges are long-term and may deviate in the short term as a result of funding schedules and interim market movements.

**Asset Class Structure.** WSIB establishes an asset class structure with wide guidelines for its staff to move assets in order to achieve the fund's overall objectives.

- **Equity.** The benchmark and structure for public equity investments is to passively track the broad global stock market as defined by the MSCI All Country World Investable Market Index with U.S. Gross.
- **Fixed Income**. The long-term goals of the asset class are to outperform inflation and to mitigate volatility for the total portfolio.
- Permissible Investments:
  - 1. Inflation Indexed Bonds:
  - 2. U.S. Treasuries and Government Agencies;
  - 3. Credit Bonds;
  - 4. WSIB Bond Market Funds; and
  - 5. Cash Equivalent Funds.

Although fixed-income securities rated below investment grade may not be purchased, portfolio holdings that are downgraded to those levels or no longer rated may continue to be held. "Investment-grade" is defined using the rating schema method employed by the Bloomberg Global Family of Fixed Income Indices.

**Performance Information.** WSIB presents performance information for investments quarterly to the Committee. The most recent report is available at <a href="wsac.wa.gov/wa529">wsac.wa.gov/wa529</a> in the Committee meeting materials. See the table to the right for the performance information on GET investments for the quarter ending June 30, 2025.

Returns are net of all investment fees. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

Rate of Return on GET Investments (as of June 30, 2025)		
1-Year	11.31%	
3-Year	10.09%	
5-Year	6.66%	
10-Year	6.36%	

# <u>Important Dates</u>

November 1, 2025	The 2025-26 Enrollment Period begins. You can open an Account and purchase Units at the \$123.76 Unit Purchase Price.
January 2026	You will receive IRS Form 1099-Q if you took any Distributions, Qualified Refunds, Nonqualified Refunds, or your Account expired/terminated during 2025. If the Distribution, Qualified Refund, or Nonqualified Refund was made payable to the Student, or directly to the Eligible Institution, the Student will receive the IRS Form 1099-Q.
May 31, 2026	The 2025-26 Enrollment Period ends. If you enroll online, you must complete your enrollment by midnight PDT on May 31. If you enroll by mail, your Enrollment Form must be postmarked by May 31. Online enrollment gets congested during the final week of the Enrollment Period. We encourage you to enroll early to prevent delays in your enrollment.
June 25, 2026	We must receive your payment by June 25 to ensure any Lump Sum Plan Units are purchased at the \$123.76 price. Any payments received after this date may not be processed before the June 30 Unit Purchase Price deadline, and we will post it at the Unit Purchase Price in effect for the 2026-27 Enrollment Period.
August 1, 2026	Up to 200 new Units will become eligible for Distribution for all Students with a Benefit Use Year of 2026 or earlier.

# **Contact Us**

Website	<u>529.wa.gov</u>	
Email	GETInfo@wsac.wa.gov	
Phone	800-955-2318 (toll-free) or 360-753-7803 (Olympia) Translation service is available for customers who do not speak English.	Hours: Weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Pacific Time (excluding State holidays). These hours may change. Please check our website for updates.
Payments (Do not send notarized documents here)	U.S. Mail: WA529 GET P.O. Box 84824 Seattle, WA 98124-6124	Overnight Deliveries - FedEx/UPS: WA529 GET US Bank 17650 NE Sandy Blvd Lockbox #84824 Gresham, OR 97230-5000
Correspondence Forms and Documents  (Do not send payments here)	U.S. Mail: WA529 GET P.O. Box 43450 Olympia, WA 98504-3450	Overnight Deliveries - FedEx/UPS: WSAC/WA529 1500 Jefferson Street SE Olympia, WA 98501

# **More Resources**

- Learn about tax benefits of saving for education in IRS Publication 970: <u>irs.gov/forms-pubs/about-publication-970</u>
- View the most frequently asked questions about GET: <u>529.wa.gov/get/faqs-get</u>
- Learn about how GET works and view historical documents: 529.wa.gov/get/howgetworks.
- See the latest news regarding GET, including announcements, press releases, and media stories: 529.wa.gov/news
- View program data for GET and WA529 Invest: wsac.wa.gov/college-savings-dashboard
- Manage your GET Account online (change personal information, see Account balances, use Units and more): getportal.wsac.wa.gov/app/login
- Learn more about the Washington Student Achievement Council and the services they provide to Washington students: wsac.wa.gov/
- Learn about the generous Washington College Grant (WA Grant)—half of families in Washington can get free money from the state to help pay for career training, college, or apprenticeships: wsac.wa.gov/wcg
- Explore Washington's many state financial aid programs, which offer support for aspiring teachers and health care professionals, former foster youth, and more: wsac.wa.gov/sfa-overview
- Read about WSAC's student loan advocate who supports current and future student loan borrowers in Washington State: wsac.wa.gov/loan-advocacy
- Complete learning modules designed to help education consumers better understand higher education costs and considerations: studentloaned.wa.gov/



# Help make their dreams come true with GET.

# Contact Us:

1-800-955-2318 GETInfo@wsac.wa.gov Monday - Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

# Payments:

WA529 GET PO Box 84824 Seattle, WA 98124-6124

# **Overnight Payments:**

WA529 GET US Bank 17650 NE Sandy Blvd Lockbox #84824 Gresham, OR 97230-5000

(Forms/documents can be included)

# Correspondence, Forms, Certified Letters:

WA529 GET PO Box 43450 Olympia, WA 98504-3450 Learn more and open an account at

529.wa.gov/get



