

Tuition Savings



Patrick Picarsic
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Save up to 25% off of tuition from a private university.

Long Island Funding for Education, in association with the SAGE (Savings and Growth for Education) Scholars Tuition Rewards Program, is offering a unique plan to help Long Island families pay for college. Through Tuition Rewards, you can earn a discount of up to a full-year of tuition at a growing list of nearly 300 private, four-year colleges throughout the United States, simply by purchasing life insurance. You earn Tuition Rewards Points much like frequent flyer miles or reward points on your credit card.

Rich Milella, founder of LIFE (Long Island Funding for Education) and registered financial representative at CPS Financial Services in Hauppauge, is piloting this program on Long Island.

“We’re always looking for ways to help our clients, and the SAGE Scholars program was a natural fit.” says Milella. “Through life insurance and managed accounts, we are able to help families save money on college.”

Purchasing a life insurance policy is one way that Tuition Reward Points are earned. A point is equal to \$1 of tuition discounts. You receive a guaranteed Tuition Reward of 500 points for scheduling a consultation with L.I.F.E., and completing a Sponsor Form. If the program is appealing to you and your family, you need to complete and submit a life insurance application, and fulfill all underwriting requirements. Once your policy is place in force, you immediately receive 5,000 additional Tuition Reward points and 2000 each year as long as the policy remains in force.

For example: A policy in force for five years would yield 13,500 in Tuition Rewards. The other avenue is managed assets. A 5% scholarship award rate applies to IRAs, annuities, and other retirement vehicles. A \$100,000 dollars in an IRA will yield 5000 Tuition Rewards annually.

“It’s a wonderful program that it rewards savings” say Milella. “Awards points don’t count towards your assets with regards toward your EFC (Expected Family Contribution). It works wonderfully with college savings plans, and all family members are eligible to receive awards.”

Children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews all qualify. There is also no maximum amount of tuition points that a family can earn. Because Tuition Awards aren’t cash, more akin to “frequent flyer miles,” they aren’t taxed and, like cash value in a permanent life insurance policy, aren’t considered assets during the financial aid process.

“There are some limitations to the program that have to be considered” says Milella. “Students must be enrolled by August 31st of their junior year, and Tuition Awards must be allocated to students before

August 31st of their senior year. State schools are not eligible for this program,” he goes on. “Only participating, private, not-for-profit, four-year colleges are eligible. We currently work with 275+ schools, but we add, on average, one school a month.” (For a complete list, go to www.tuitionrewards.com)

In addition to the SAGE program, Long Island Funds for Education helps parents navigate the complex arena of college funding; not limited to FAFSA forms, the difference between the COA (Cost of Attendance) and EFC (Expected Family Contribution, and the HOPE and American Opportunity tax breaks.

“L.I.F.E. was created to help parents through the high anxiety task of funding college” states Milella. “We sit down with parents, grandparents, and even uncles and aunts, and guide them through the hoops and traps inherent in the financial aspects of college preparation.”

To receive your guaranteed 500 Tuition Rewards, call (631) 389-2318 to schedule an appointment.

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