



Illinois Taxpayers Only
2024 Important Tax Information
Keep with Your Tax Documents for Filing Illinois Income Taxes in 2025

This document contains important guidance you'll need to claim your 2024 Illinois income tax deduction.

For all Illinois taxpayers who will be claiming a deduction on their 2024 Illinois income taxes for contributions made to Bright Start 529 in calendar year 2024, please note that the process will be different for tax year 2024. Please review this document carefully to ensure you accurately claim your income tax deduction.

As an Illinois taxpayer, up to \$10,000 of your contributions to Bright Start 529 (up to \$20,000 if you file jointly) are deductible from your Illinois taxable income. When claiming the tax deduction on your Illinois income tax return, follow the instructions below.

How to Accurately Enter Your 2024 Contributions on the 2024 IL 1040 Tax Form

When Bright Start 529 transitioned to a new program manager on September 30, 2024, account holders were assigned new account numbers. As such, each Bright Start 529 account that was open prior to September 27, 2024, has a minimum of two account numbers associated with it during the 2024 calendar year:

- A 9-digit numeric account number valid through September 27, 2024 (e.g. 123456789)
- An 11-digit number valid from September 30, 2024, onward. It includes 9-alphanumeric characters + 2-digit extension (e.g. A12345678-01)

For the 2024 tax year only, taxpayers who made contributions to their Bright Start 529 account both before and after September 27, 2024, will need to enter the account number valid through September 27, 2024, and the account number valid from September 30, 2024, onward – along with the corresponding amounts contributed to each - on the 2024 Illinois 1040 Tax Form, Schedule M (see below for example). You will need to do this for each beneficiary.

Follow these steps when filing your Illinois 1040 Tax Form, Schedule M

1. Locate your Bright Start 529 statements dated September 27, 2024, and December 31, 2024, for each beneficiary. To view them, log in to your online account portal at BrightStart.com, then go to “View profile and documents” and select “Statements, Confirms, and Tax Forms.”
2. After selecting “Statements, Confirms, and Tax Forms,” a drop-down menu appears.
 - a. Year: Select 2024
 - b. Beneficiary: Select All Beneficiaries
 - c. Document Type: Select Statements
 - d. View/Save/Print all Statements with the date 9/27/2024 and 12/31/2024
3. For the 2024 tax year only, taxpayers who made contributions to their Bright Start 529 account both before and after September 27, 2024, will need to enter the account number valid through September 27, 2024, the account number valid from September 30, 2024, onward, and the corresponding amount of contributions made to each. Please see the illustrated example below.
4. You will need to do this for each beneficiary account that you contributed to in 2024.

Below is an example of a Bright Start 529 account that includes contributions both before September 27 and between September 28 and December 31.

For each Bright Start 529 account, you can claim contributions on the Illinois Tax Form 1040, Schedule M by entering the information as shown in the below example. Note as well that the IL 1040 Schedule M form will accept the new account number including the dash*.

	Column A: Account Number	Column B: Contribution Amount	Column C: Gift
From Sept. 27, 2024 Statement	1. 161616161	\$2,500	<input type="checkbox"/>
From Dec. 31, 2024 Statement	2. A9XXXXXX-01	\$1,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
	3.		<input type="checkbox"/>
	4.		<input type="checkbox"/>

*Some tax software systems have not been updated to allow for the new alphanumeric format. If that is the case with the tax software you are using, for 2024 ONLY enter the account number without the "A" (i.e. "9XXXXXX-01" rather than "A9XXXXXX-01). If necessary, you can also enter the new account number without the dash.

Reminder: When entering contribution totals on the Illinois Tax Form 1040, Schedule M, it's important to exclude any gift contributions that were contributed to the Bright Start 529 account by individuals other than the taxpayer. You should also exclude any 2023 contributions that may have been received in 2024 and, if you completed a rollover into Bright Start, to exclude the earnings portion.

This guidance will only impact your 2024 taxes, for tax year 2025 it will not be necessary to enter two account numbers and corresponding amounts for each account. Our goal is to make this one-time inconvenience as simple as possible by providing you with the tools needed to complete your 2024 Illinois state taxes.

Please note: Reporting this information incorrectly could result in a delay in processing your 2024 Illinois state tax return.

For additional information and updates, go to <https://brightstart.com/resources/faq/#taxes> and select the question "What do I need to know before I file my 2024 Illinois State Income Tax Form?" or call 1-877-432-7444.

The Bright Start 529 Plan Savings Program is offered by the State of Illinois. TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc. (TFI), plan manager. TIAA-CREF Individual & Institutional Services, LLC, Member FINRA, distributor and underwriter for the Bright Start Direct-Sold College Savings Program. This notice is not deemed tax advice and neither the state, the plan, nor the program manager can provide you with tax advice. You should consult your legal or tax professional for tax advice based on your own circumstances.