

What is a Save for College Read-a-thon?

The Save for College Read-a-thon is a fun and educational way for your child to gather support from friends, family, and other champions in their community for their college and career training future. [INSERT HOST ORGANIZATION] is running this Read-a-thon through its partnership with the NYC Kids RISE Save for College Program.

Who can participate in the Save for College Read-a-thon?

Any child enrolled in [INSERT HOST ORGANIZATION'S PROGRAM NAME] and also enrolled in the NYC Kids RISE Save for College Program can participate in this Read-a-thon. If you are unsure whether your child is enrolled in the Save for College Program, ask at your child's school or call NYC Kids RISE at 833-543-7473.

How does the Read-a-thon work?

Students participating in the Read-a-thon collect pledges from "College and Career Champions" in their lives. These Champions pledge to contribute a certain amount to the student's college savings account based on how many books or minutes a student reads during the Read-a-thon. This money gets deposited into your family's college savings account that you have opened and connected through the Save for College Program.

Where can my family get books for my child to read in the Read-a-thon?

You can borrow books from your local public library. [INSERT OTHER OPTIONS HERE]

Who can be a College and Career Champion for my child?

Any family member, friend, or community member can pledge to be one of your child's College and Career Champions. Use the Champions Worksheet to list potential Champions. [INSERT HOST ORGANIZATION] can also work with you to identify potential Champions in your child's life.

How much does one of my child's College and Career Champions have to contribute?

Champions can pledge and contribute as little or as much money as they choose. There is no minimum amount. Even a small amount of savings at a young age makes a big difference in a child's ability to go to college and career training. And every dollar your child has saved up now is less money they might have to borrow in the future. Champions can also support your child's education in other ways, like mentorship or homework help.

What does my child and family need to do to participate in the Read-a-thon?

In order for your child to participate in the Read-a-thon, you must

have opened and connected your own college savings account with the Save for College Program. Your own savings account is where contributions related to your child's participation in the Read-a-thon will be deposited.

What if I have not yet opened a college savings account through the Save for College Program or need help opening a college savings account for my child?

You can work with a representative from [INSERT HOST ORGANIZATION] running the Read-a-thon to open a college savings account through the Save for College Program. You can also open an account online. Learn more at nyckidsrise.org/options or call NYC Kids RISE at 833-543-7473.

What if I am not sure I want to open my own college savings account?

Opening your own college savings account is not required to be part of the Save for College Program. However, you must open your own savings account for your child to collect contributions in the Read-a-thon. Your child can also earn up to \$150 in scholarship rewards when you open your own college savings account through the Save for College Program and begin saving. Visit nyckidsrise.org/options or call NYC Kids RISE at 833-543-7473 to get all your questions answered.

Do any of the college savings account options available through the Save for College Program qualify my child to participate in the Read-a-thon?

Yes, your child can participate in the Read-a-thon **whether you have chosen the NY 529 Direct Plan account or the Amalgamated Save for College Bank Account** option. If you choose the NY 529 account, you may use the Ugift® option to have family and friends make contributions to your account. If you have another bank account, family and friends can deposit money for your child using a check or money order.

Can I collect the contributions from family and friends and deposit it on their behalf?

Yes, you may. If you have an NY 529 account, you can deposit their contributions into your own linked checking account and then transfer it to your NY 529 account at nysaves.org. If you have a traditional savings account, you can deposit a check or money order as long as it is made out to your child. You can also bring their cash and deposit it.

How does UGift® work?

If you have a NY 529 Direct Plan account, you also have a unique Ugift® code. To find your code, log on to your NY 529 account at nysaves.org and select the Ugift® link. You can email your code to friends and family,

Read-a-thon Q&A for Parents/Guardians



include it on party invitations, or share it via social media.

Once they have your code, your friends and family (your child's College and Career Champions) can log on to Ugift529.com; enter the code, their name, and the contribution amount; and choose whether they want to make their contribution electronically or by mailing a check.

The code makes the transactions secure, but the Champions won't have to register for or log on to the site. They won't have to pay a service fee. They will see a confirmation after making their contribution, and they can also choose to receive a confirmation by email. You will get a confirmation too.

Once your child's Champions have the code, they can use it to give a gift at any time by following this same process.

What if one of my child's College and Career Champions gives me cash for my child's NY 529 account?

You cannot deposit cash directly into your child's NY 529 *Direct Plan* account. You have two options:

1. Encourage your child's Champions to use Ugift[®] or mail a check to NY 529.
2. Deposit your Champion's cash into your own checking account and then deposit that money into your child's NY 529 account by linking it on nysaves.org.

What if I don't have a checking account linked to my NY 529 Direct Plan account?

Your child's Champions should then use Ugift[®] to make the deposit directly into your child's NY 529 account. If they are not able to, you may choose to open your own checking account at a bank near you. For support with opening a bank account that makes sense for you, visit a Financial Empowerment Center by scheduling an appointment at nyc.gov/dca.

What if one of my child's Champions wants to use UGift[®] but they do not have a bank account to use to make the deposit?

They can give you cash and you can deposit the money into your linked checking account. From there, you can make a deposit into your child's NY 529 account at nysaves.org.

Ugift[®] is a registered service mark of Ascensus Broker Dealer Services, LLC.

Can I give the cash to [INSERT HOST ORGANIZATION] or NYC Kids RISE to make a deposit for my child?

No, unfortunately that is not allowed.

Can my child participate in the Read-a-thon if we have a different type of college savings account open for them?

Yes, your child can participate as long as you have a way for family and friends donate into your child's college savings account.

However, if you want your child to earn scholarship rewards through the Save for College Program for opening and connecting a participating account, making your first deposit or saving up to \$100, you will need to open one of the participating options.

What if no one among my family or close friends is able to open a college savings account because we do not have the necessary documentation?

Your child can still participate in the Read-a-thon even if your family or friends does not have the documentation required to open an account (Social Security Number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number). We still encourage you to collect pledges and save it in a secure place for your child's future. For more support with navigation issues related to documentation, contact NYC Kids RISE at 833-543-7473. Their multilingual staff are available to help you find the information you need to save for your child's future. They will never ask you to tell us your or your family's immigration status.

What are reading times for participating students and how are they counted?

[INSERT RULES FOR READING TIMES AND HOW THEY ARE COUNTED HERE]

The NYC Kids RISE Save for College Program is a scholarship and savings program administered by NYC Kids RISE Inc., a nonprofit, in partnership with the NYC Department of Education and the City of New York. NYC Kids RISE is neither affiliated with, nor an authorized distributor of, New York's 529 College Savings Program and does not solicit investments or provide investment advice. The City of New York and the NYC Department of Education offer no endorsement or recommendation about, and do not control, own or are affiliated with the NY 529 Program Manager and any particular college savings or other investment vehicle, including ones which families may learn about through the Save for College Program.