D|A|DAVIDSON
KINEKE GIBSON WEALTH MANAGEMENT
Members of D.A. Davidson & Co. member FINRA/SIPC
SUMMER 2026

Margaret Kineke, CFP®
Senior Vice President,
Financial Advisor
(206) 389-8018
mkineke@dadco.com

Emma Gibson, CWS®
Associate Vice President,
Financial Advisor
(206) 389-4027
egibson@dadco.com

Julie Strömberg, CWS®, FPQP®
Senior Registered
Financial Planning Associate
(206) 389-8017
jstromberg@dadco.com

Caretakers of your wealth, focusing on financial peace of mind.

IN THIS ISSUE:

(Fall 2026) Back-to-School Financial Planning Guide

As families prepare for the upcoming school year, it's a great time to revisit financial planning priorities. This guide is designed to help you stay organized, minimize stress, and make smart financial choices for your household.

1. Budgeting & Cash Flow

- Estimate total back-to-school costs (tuition, supplies, technology, clothing, etc.)
- Review monthly cash flow and adjust for seasonal expenses
- Identify areas to trim discretionary spending if needed
- Consider using a dedicated account or savings bucket for education expenses

2. Education Savings Strategy

- Revisit 529 plans or other education savings accounts
- Maximize contributions where appropriate
- Review investment allocations based on time horizon
- Consider tax advantages of education savings vehicles

3. Technology & Major Purchases

- Plan ahead for laptops, tablets, or other school-related technology
- Compare pricing and take advantage of seasonal discounts
- Evaluate warranties and protection plans where appropriate

4. Insurance & Protection Review

- Confirm health insurance coverage for dependents
- Review renters or homeowners insurance for students living away from home
- Ensure adequate emergency savings are in place

*Back-to-School Financial Guide continued on **page 2***

Back-to-School Financial Planning Guide

Continued from page 1

5. College & Financial Aid Planning

- Track important FAFSA and financial aid deadlines
- Evaluate scholarship opportunities and grants
- Understand loan options and repayment implications

6. Tax Planning Opportunities

- Explore available education-related tax credits and deductions
- Keep receipts for qualified education expenses
- Coordinate with your tax advisor if needed

7. Family Communication & Organization

- Discuss expectations and budgets with children or students
- Create a centralized plan for schedules, payments, and expenses
- Encourage financial responsibility and awareness

If you have questions about how back-to-school planning fits into your overall financial strategy, please reach out to our team. We are here to help you stay on track and make confident financial decisions.

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529 Plan Enhancements and Increased Distributions

As of July 2026, the list of qualified higher education expenses has been expanded and includes the following:

- **Tuition**
- **Curriculum materials**
- **Books or other instructional materials**
- **Online education materials**
- **Tuition for tutoring or education classes outside of the home**
- **Fees for nationally standardized tests**
- **Advanced placement exams**
- **College admission exams**
- **Educational therapies for students with disabilities provided by a licensed professional**

Additionally, as of January 2026, the annual limit for 529 account distributions will increase from $10,000 to $20,000 for K-12 expenses.

Power of Attorney for College Students: What to Know

When a child turns 18, they are legally considered an adult. This means parents no longer have automatic authority to make medical or financial decisions on their behalf. For parents sending a child off to college, this can create challenges if an unexpected situation arises. Having the right legal documents in place—specifically, Powers of Attorney—can help ensure that parents can step in quickly and effectively when needed.

What Is a Power of Attorney?

A Power of Attorney (POA) is a legal document that allows an individual (the "agent") to make decisions and take actions on behalf of another person (the "principal"). For college students, two types are especially important:

- **Medical (Healthcare) POA:** Allows a parent to make medical decisions if the student is unable to do so.
- **Durable Financial POA:** Allows a parent to handle financial and legal matters such as rent, bank accounts, tuition, or lease agreements.

Why This Matters for College Students

Without these documents, parents may face delays or legal barriers when trying to access important information or make decisions for their child. This could mean being unable to get updates from a hospital during a medical emergency, or being unable to assist with urgent financial matters. With a POA in place, parents can step in seamlessly, helping to protect their child's well-being and financial stability.

Steps to Set Up a Power of Attorney: Choose the Right Documents

Consider whether a healthcare POA, a durable financial POA, or both are needed.

- **Use state-specific forms:** Each state has its own requirements. These forms typically need to be signed, and in some cases notarized or witnessed.
- **Execute properly:** Follow the legal signing requirements for the state where the document will be used.
- **Share copies:** Keep copies in a safe but accessible place, and provide them to the student, relevant institutions, and healthcare providers.
- **Review periodically:** Revisit the documents regularly to make sure they still meet your needs.

Bottom Line

A Power of Attorney is a simple but powerful tool that can give families peace of mind when children head off to college. Taking this step now can prevent stressful complications later—and help ensure your child is supported no matter what life brings.

If you have any questions, please reach out to us.

Team Tidbits

Margaret

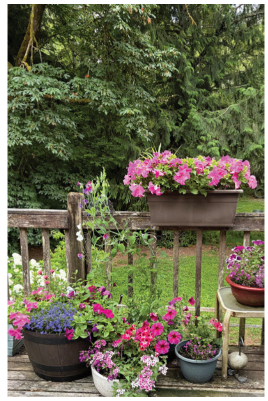
This summer has been very special for me and my family. The World Cup arrived in Seattle, and we enjoyed a match and all of the fanfare that surrounded it!

Summertime also brings the lake water to the perfect temperature for swimming, my favorite pastime. I am also looking forward to a trip with my extended family on the Maryland shore. It is the first time there for me and it looks beautiful.

Emma

This spring brought a fun mix of travel and exploring, with trips to Encinitas, Santa Fe, and Vancouver. Each spot had its own charm, from coastal sunshine to desert scenery, and it was a great way to enjoy a change of pace after the winter months.

After being on the go this spring, I'm looking forward to staying closer to home for the beautiful PNW summer. I plan to spend time in Idaho with my family, which should be the perfect way to recharge close to home.



Julie

In late spring we spent time planting; not all the vegetables have grown as well as I would have liked, but the tomatoes are thriving! My mom was excited to plant flowers on the deck and she tends them regularly.

The grandkids visited and checked the chicken coop for eggs daily. The highlight is checking the eggs with a flashlight to see if they are edible eggs or chicks. There were a few chicks and my father-in-law has them in the incubator!

We travel to Alaska next for back-to-school fun.

Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions you have. The three of us are here for you!

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Columbia Center | 701 5th Avenue, Suite 4050 | Seattle, WA 98104 | kinekegibsonwealthmanagement.dadavidsonfa.com

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