

College Funding Ladder

Most desirable at the top • Least desirable at the bottom

**MOST
DESIRABLE ↑**

Cash Flow

No taxes • No interest • Maximum flexibility

Student Earnings

Shared responsibility • Reduced pressure

Scholarships & Grants

Helpful bonuses • Never guaranteed

Financial Aid

Net cost shaped by asset positioning

529 Plans

Tax-efficient when sized correctly

Non-Retirement Investments

Flexible • Tax & aid sensitive

Parent Loans

Long-term cost • Overlaps retirement

Retirement Accounts

Taxes • Penalties • Lost future income

**LEAST
DESIRABLE ↓**

Planning note: Order often matters more than the funding source itself.