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be able with  
**NC ABLE**



### NC ABLE

Tax-advantaged savings for people with disabilities



### Investment Options

Choose account options that fit YOU - from checking to investments



### Open an Account

Enroll and open an account online with as little as \$25

# NC ABLE Program Board of Trustees Meeting May 11, 2022

## Communications and Outreach Update



**NC ABLE**  
National ABLE Alliance Member



*Dale R. Folwell, CPA*  
STATE TREASURER OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DALE R. FOLWELL, CPA

# NC ABLE Outreach Highlights

## Upcoming Outreach

- Exceptional Children's Assistance Ctr.
- NCABLE.org
- Union County Transition Fair
- Special Olympics of North Carolina – Summer Games

## NC ABLE Media & Outreach

- 2 Press Releases Issued
- Franklin Academy High School – **POWER of FIVE**
- The Arc of North Carolina
- Weddington Elementary School
- HJ MacDonald Middle School
- Exceptional Children's Assistance Ctr.



# Press Releases

## Treasurer Folwell, Franklin Academy Students Team Up to Launch Statewide Campaign

*NC ABLE Celebrating 5-Year Anniversary Helping Those With Developmental Disabilities*



[Treasurer Folwell, Franklin Academy Students Team Up to Launch Statewide Campaign | NC Treasurer](#)

## Led by Treasurer Folwell, NC ABLE Awareness Gives Rise to Transformative Donation

*Treasurer Folwell's Misplaced Reading Glasses Leads to The Barnes Family Foundation Donation of \$25,000*



[Led by Treasurer Folwell, NC ABLE Awareness Gives Rise to Transformative Donation | NC Treasurer](#)

## Folwell, Franklin Academy students team up to launch statewide campaign



Gary Band | The Wake Weekly  
Robert Luddy, left, stands with State Treasurer Dale R. Folwell at Franklin Academy in Wake Forest on Tuesday. Folwell visited the charter school founded by Luddy in 1998 in order to deliver a check from NCCash in the amount of \$12,674.93, and to celebrate the five-year anniversary of NC ABLE. Also shown is Franklin Academy Vice Principal Brian Fouts.

RALEIGH — Steve Msarsa knows a thing or two about the power of visual messaging. On Tuesday, the award-winning graphic artist and instructor at Franklin Academy High School unveiled his students' artwork for State Treasurer Dale R. Folwell, CPA.

The event served as the launch for a Power of Five campaign to raise awareness of savings accounts specially devised for individuals living with disabilities.

The Power of Five signifies the fifth anniversary of the NC ABLE Program (Achieving a Better Life Experience) savings accounts under the auspices of the Department of State Treasurer. NC ABLE partnered with Msarsa and his students to create posters for the statewide campaign.

The timing of the event had particular meaning. March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

"I am so proud of these students and the effort they put into making NC ABLE and The Power of Five come to life," Msarsa said. "The students gained real-world experience while seeing first-hand how their work impacts the broader community. It was a great learning lesson for the students and an opportunity for them to positively impact the community."

Folwell enjoyed meeting the students and applauded their creative efforts and willingness to provide a civic service.

"I am honored to visit with the students at Franklin Academy today. I am impressed with the artwork the students developed to help us increase awareness of the NC ABLE Program," said Folwell, who chairs the NC ABLE Board of Trustees. "

It is through working with our great partners, like The ARC of North Carolina and the students at Franklin Academy High School, that we are able to spread the word about NC ABLE."

# THE WAKE WEEKLY

The board of trustees oversees more than \$15.6 million in assets for nearly 1,700 account holders whose average account size is \$9,300. The money can be used for qualified disability expenses such as housing, cell phones, adaptive equipment, transportation and virtually any other item that will help to provide a better life experience.

U.S. Sen. Richard Burr introduced the bipartisan Achieving a Better Life Experience Act in Congress in 2011. The legislation was needed, he said at the time, because “families of individuals with disabilities often face overwhelming financial burdens associated with the expensive costs of health care, education, housing and transportation.”

North Carolina followed suit when the NC ABLE Act was signed into law in 2015. It allows people living with disabilities and their families to contribute to tax-free savings accounts without exceeding income limits that would cut off benefits such as Medicaid and Supplemental Security Income.

“I’ve personally seen how the NC ABLE program makes a difference. When people don’t lose their benefits, they are able to expand their opportunities significantly. I want to thank the Treasurer for helping to spearhead this program and promote it across the state,” said John Nash, executive director of The Arc of North Carolina.

Robert Luddy, founder of Franklin Academy, joined the treasurer in helping to debut the posters.

“I am honored to be here and be part of promoting the NC ABLE Program,” Luddy said. “A huge thank you goes out to Treasurer Folwell and to the students for the work you’ve put into this campaign. Your creativity is inspiring and your hard work is appreciated.”

Adam Strom, a recent high school graduate, NC ABLE account holder and participant in The Arc of North Carolina’s Supported Employment Program, also attended the event with his father, Steve Strom. Adam works at Cambridge Village in Apex.

The National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities and its partners annually designate March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. They work to create a social media campaign highlighting the many ways in which people with disabilities can help to form strong, diverse communities. Inclusiveness in the community and removing barriers that people with disabilities face in fully engaging community life are the objectives of the awareness campaign.

While he was at Franklin Academy, Folwell presented a check to high school officials. During a routine review DST staff identified \$12,674.93 belonging to Franklin Academy in the database of the Unclaimed Property Division, commonly called NCCash.com. UPD is the repository for approximately 18 million properties valued at roughly \$919 million under DST’s custody awaiting return to the rightful owners.



# The Power of 5

## NC ABLE 5 YEAR ANNIVERSARY



NC ABLE accounts are available to people with the occurrence of disability prior to the age of 26

Qualified Disability Expenses COVERED!

Annual contribution limit of \$16k is expanded with the ABLE to Work Provision

Many investment options, including a checking account

Tax-Advantaged Savings without impacting eligibility for public supports

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North Carolina ABLE Alliance Member

NCABLE.org

*Dale R. Folwell, CPA*  
DALE R. FOLWELL, CPA

# THE POWER OF FIVE

## CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS OF NC ABLE

### KEY FACTS

- 1 NC ABLE accounts are available to people with the occurrence of disability prior to the age of 26
- 2 Many investment options, including a checking account
- 3 Qualified Disability Expenses COVERED!
- 4 Tax-Advantaged Savings without impacting eligibility for public supports
- 5 Annual contribution limit of \$16k is expanded with the ABLE to Work Provision



NC ABLE  
National ABLE Alliance Member

*Dale R. Folwell, CPA*  
DALE R. FOLWELL, CPA

Find us on:  

Find out more at [NCABLE.org](http://NCABLE.org)

# The Power of 5


## 5 Key Facts About NC ABLE

- 1 NC ABLE accounts are available to people with the occurrence of disability prior to the age of 26.
- 2 Many investment options, including a checking account.
- 3 Qualified Disability Expenses – COVERED!
- 4 Tax-Advantaged Savings without impacting eligibility for public supports.
- 5 Annual contribution limit of \$16k is expanded with the ABLE to Work Provision

### Celebrating 5 Years of NC ABLE

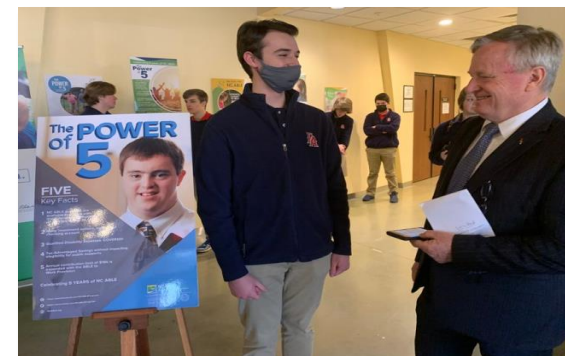
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 NCABLE.org







**NC ABE**  
National ABE Alliance Member



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# Let's Get Social!

**be able with NCABLE**



**\$10k** average account balance as of 3/18/22

NCABLE.org

**FREE WEBINAR**

**The NCABLE PROGRAM**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2022  
7pm to 8pm EST

**be able with NCABLE**

"My doctor recommended I start **massage therapy**, to help with the everyday aches and pains associated with my disability. Insurance wouldn't cover the treatment but now I can pay for it with my **NCABLE account**."



HEALTH, PREVENTION AND WELLNESS

**be able with NCABLE**

NCABLE.org

Facebook Page Visits

221 ↑ 9.4%



NCABLE.org

**Qualified Disability Expenses Covered**

**Caroline**  
NCABLE Account Holder

**be able with NCABLE**

NCABLE National ABLI Release Monitor



**NCABLE's account fees are now even lower!**

**be able with NCABLE**



# NC ABLE Communications Strategy Outline

## Goals in support of these Primary Areas of Focus

- **Education through engagement** – Engage the public through effective networking, editorial, social media, and PR placements with the goal to educate potential participants (and their families) about the benefits of ABLE and NC ABLE.
- **Enrollment** – Provide information on the enrollment process and NC ABLE account benefits/features. Dispel misunderstandings and provide information that makes individuals feel comfortable taking action.

## Primary Audiences

1. People with disabilities, their families, and guardians
2. Organizations that provide services and supports
3. NC General Assembly  
Priority: Public/Media, NC advocacy and membership associations, state and regional community groups, Legislators and their staffs  
Secondary: Financial services providers, businesses who provide services and supports, legal services providers

## Key messages

1. The NC ABLE Act is one of the most significant pieces of legislation ever passed in NC to support independence for people with disabilities. NC ABLE accounts have the potential to make a real and lasting impact on the financial security of individuals with disabilities, and their families.
2. NC ABLE accounts provide people with disabilities and their families a new opportunity to save and plan for a better economic future and improved quality of life, without losing needed supports from SSI, Medicaid, and other programs. NC ABLE accounts positively impact financial day-to-day challenges *and* provide an opportunity to save for the future.
3. Because North Carolina participates in the National ABLE Alliance, NC ABLE accounts have the benefits of competitive pricing, coupled with high quality institutional investment management. The NC ABLE Program Board of Trustees provides strong oversight of the NC ABLE Program.

## A few of our key collaborators



*National ABLE Alliance*



Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services



# Thank you



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*NC ABLE & Supplemental Retirement Plans*



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