



# Minors Trust Fund

## FAQ



### ❖ **How do I check my Minors Fund balance?**

You can also log onto the online portal at [www.usicg.com](http://www.usicg.com) to view fund balance and investment results. Instructions for setting up your account are at [USI Account Registration Instructions](#).

### ❖ **Why do I have to apply for a disbursement from Minors Fund but not to receive per capita?**

Any disbursement from the Minors Trust Fund requires an application because no participant is required to take a disbursement at any given time. An applicant may choose to leave their fund invested without taking a disbursement. There is no penalty, and the fund may earn more interest during this time. Meanwhile, at age 18, per capita payments begin automatically, but the first payment depends on birthdate.

### ❖ **I have Direct Deposit for per capita, will my Minors Fund be direct deposited as well?**

Per capita and Minors Fund are managed separately. The direct deposit form for Minors Fund is on the application. The Treasury Office is working to update this process and will update the application when changes are implemented. Currently, you must submit a separate direct deposit form for Minors Trust Fund if you want an electronic payment.

### ❖ **I used my Minors Fund for a school trip in 10<sup>th</sup> grade, can I take another education disbursement?**

Each applicant is allowed a one-time disbursement for an educational trip. If you take the disbursement in middle school or high school, you are still allowed only one disbursement for an educational trip.

### ❖ **Can I use my Minors Fund to pay for college?**

You are welcome to apply for an Education Disbursement; your application will be reviewed by the EBCI Investment Committee. However, it is discouraged because the EBCI Higher Education program will fully fund your college tuition and pay for other school costs. Visit [Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians - Higher Education and Training \(ebcihighered.com\)](http://ebcihighered.com) for more information.

### ❖ **Why is my Minors Fund invested? *Isn't that risky?***

The Minors Trust Fund is invested, and the principal (the per capita payments) is indemnified by Tribal Council. That means there is no risk to the participant of losing any principal because Tribal Council guarantees each participant will receive all the principal at a minimum.

The fund is invested, and the participant keeps all the interest. The EBCI Investment Committee is charged with oversight of the fund as an investment.

All statements are created in real time and account balances change daily. If you receive a statement with negative interest earned, know that all your per capita contributions are guaranteed and while the interest earnings increase and decrease with market conditions, the next statement will be different.