

# Signer Onboarding & Responsibilities

Graduation Vault System — Plain-Language Guide for Parents, Staff, and Trustees

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## Why You Are Being Asked to Be a Signer

As a signer, you play a **governance role**, not a financial or investment role.

Graduation Vaults are designed to protect student donations over time. No single person is trusted with control. Instead, decisions require **shared approval** so that funds can only be released when the agreed conditions are met.

Being a signer means:

- You help protect the student's future
- You act as a safeguard against misuse or mistakes
- You participate only at key decision moments

It does **not** mean you manage money day-to-day.

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## What a Graduation Vault Is (and Is Not)

### A Graduation Vault IS:

- A secure digital vault holding donations for one student
- Locked until graduation or documented hardship
- Governed by multiple independent signers
- Fully transparent and auditable

### A Graduation Vault IS NOT:

- A bank account
- An investment or savings product
- A trading account
- Something any single person can access alone

No interest is earned. No investments are made. The vault's purpose is **protection and transparency**, not growth.

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## Signer Roles Explained

Each Graduation Vault has **four signer roles**:

## **Parent / Guardian (Mandatory Signer)**

- Must approve any graduation or emergency withdrawal
- Represents the student's long-term interests
- Cannot be removed or bypassed

## **School Representative**

- Confirms enrollment and graduation status
- Helps ensure the vault is used for its intended purpose

## **Teacher / Counselor / Staff**

- Brings a student-centered perspective
- Helps evaluate readiness and hardship requests

## **Independent Trustee / Community Member**

- Provides neutral oversight
- Helps prevent conflicts of interest

No signer has special authority beyond their vote.

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## **How Decisions Are Made**

### **Graduation Withdrawal (Normal Case)**

To release funds at graduation: - At least **3 of the 4 signers** must approve - The **Parent/Guardian must be one of them** - Funds are sent to a **joint Student + Parent vault**

This ensures collaboration and protects against unilateral decisions.

### **Emergency / Hardship Withdrawal (Rare Exception)**

- All **4 signers must approve**
- A documented hardship reason is required
- Only the minimum necessary amount is released

This preserves compassion without weakening safeguards.

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## **What You Will Actually Do as a Signer**

In practice, being a signer usually involves: - Occasionally reviewing a proposal in Safe - Approving or rejecting it - Asking questions if something is unclear

You will **not**: - Monitor the vault daily - Manage donations - Move funds on your own - Be responsible for technical setup

Most signers take action only once or twice over several years.

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## What You Are Not Responsible For

As a signer, you are **not** responsible for: - Investment performance (there is none) - Market fluctuations - Donor decisions - Technical infrastructure - Regulatory filings

Your responsibility is limited to **good-faith governance decisions**.

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## Transparency and Trust

All vault activity is: - Recorded on a public ledger - Viewable by donors and families - Verifiable by independent third parties

There are no hidden accounts and no private ledgers.

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## Graduation and Beyond

At graduation: - Funds move to a **Student + Parent joint vault** - The student learns how to manage shared custody - Over time, the parent may step back as appropriate

This transition is intentional and educational.

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## Important Assurances

- No operator, school, or advisor can move funds
- No signer can act alone
- Rules are enforced by code, not promises

If something violates the rules, it simply cannot happen.

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## Final Thought

Graduation Vaults work because **trust is shared and limited**.

Your role as a signer is not about control — it is about **protection, collaboration, and accountability**.

Thank you for helping safeguard a student's future.

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**Status:** Approved Signer Education Document

**Audience:** Parents, Staff, Trustees

**Tone:** Plain-language, non-technical