

Saving Early = Saving Smart!

Watch Your Money Grow With Your Child

WHY

It's **never** too early to start saving money for college. Here are a few reasons to start saving now:

Rising College Costs

Be prepared to handle rising college costs by saving early and consistently! Visit www.finaid.org/calculators to get an estimate of what college will cost by the time your child is ready to attend.

Benefit of Savings

No matter how little you save, every cent makes a difference in affording your child's higher education. Develop realistic savings goals and save regularly by placing aside a set amount at a set time. For example, if you save \$14 per week (two dollars a day) in an account that earns 1% interest, you will accrue more than \$12,400 at the end of 17 years.

Less Debt, More Investment

Many families have to rely on student loans to cover college costs. Saving for college now can reduce your need for a loan in the future. Earn interest by opening a savings account today versus paying interest on a loan later. The best graduation gift you can give your child is to help him or her leave college debt-free!

HOW

Choosing the Right Savings Plan

Prepaid tuition and college savings plans (known as 529 plans) offer tax-free withdrawals for college expenses. To learn more about these plans and decide which one is right for you, visit www.collegesavings.org.

Determining Your Child's Eligibility for Federal Student Aid

The U.S. Department of Education's office of Federal Student Aid provides more than \$150 billion in federal aid in the form of grants, work-study programs, and loans to students who qualify. Visit StudentAid.gov/eligibility to learn about eligibility for federal student aid, and StudentAid.gov/fafsa/estimate to estimate the total amount of aid your child could receive if he or she applied to college today.

For more information about federal aid for college, visit StudentAid.gov.