



IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO START SAVING FOR COLLEGE





FAQs

Q. How much is college going to cost?

A. You can't predict how much college will cost but, historically, college costs double every 10 to 12 years.

Q. If I start saving now, will my child get less student aid?

A. In most cases, your savings will not impact your child's eligibility for student aid.

Q. Will my child get enough student aid to cover the entire cost of college?

A. Over 99% of college students pay for some of their college costs.

If you are like most parents, you want your child to go to college. And even though it may be years down the road, you can't help but wonder how you'll ever afford the cost of higher education.

Many families have to rely on student loans to cover college costs.

The good news is that by creating a plan and saving for college NOW, you can reduce your need for a loan in the future.



4 TIPS TO START PREPARING TODAY

Start Saving

It's often true that many parents feel they can't afford to save. Take a closer look at your expenses. You may be able to find extra money each month by adjusting your priorities. A college savings fund may make it possible for your child to attend the school of his or her choice. Earn interest by opening a savings account today versus paying interest on a loan later.

Take advantage of Pennsylvania's 529 College Savings Program at pa529.com. Visit savingforcollege.com for more ways to get started.

Be Open-Minded in Your Search for Colleges

Look at a variety of schools that offer the degree your child wants to pursue. Keep in mind that the cost of a school does not necessarily reflect the quality of education.

For more information on college costs, go to collegecost.ed.gov.

Focus on Scholarships & Explore Financial Aid

Your child can improve his or her chances of getting scholarships by taking challenging courses and getting good grades. Even if your child receives grants and scholarships to attend college, the reality is that they seldom cover the entire cost. Financial aid can help, but often there is a portion of the bill for which the family is responsible. How will you pay that amount?

Visit educationplanner.org/GrantsScholarships and collegeboard.com/student/pay for more information about scholarships and financial aid.

Avoid Debt

With the rising cost of education, it is always better to save than it is to borrow. For most families, saving has a low impact on eligibility for financial aid. Student loans must be paid back with interest, even if your son or daughter does not finish school or find a job.

Visit studentaid.ed.gov for information on student loans and learn how to become a smart borrower at mysmartborrowing.org.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Representative William F. Adolph, Jr.
Chairman, Springfield

Senator Wayne D. Fontana
Vice Chairman, Pittsburgh

Senator Ryan Aument
Landisville

Representative Matthew Bradford
Worcester

Representative Mike Carroll
Avoca

Representative Jaret Gibbons
Ellwood City

Senator Vincent J. Hughes
Philadelphia

Representative Sandra J. Major
Montrose

Representative Michael Peifer
Greentown

Mr. D. Raja
Pittsburgh

Honorable Roy Reinard
Holland

Representative James R. Roebuck, Jr.
Philadelphia

Senator Mario M. Scavello
Monroe/Northampton

Senator Lloyd K. Smucker
Lancaster

Chancellor Timothy R. Thyreen
Waynesburg

Senator Robert M. Tomlinson
Bensalem

Senator Sean Wiley
Erie

Senator John N. Wozniak
Johnstown

PA Secretary of Education

House Republican Appointee
Vacant

Created in 1963 by the Pennsylvania General Assembly, the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) has evolved into one of the nation's leading student aid organizations. Today, PHEAA is a national provider of student financial aid services, serving millions of students and thousands of schools through its loan guaranty, loan servicing, financial aid processing, outreach, and other student aid programs.

PHEAA's earnings are used to support its public service mission and to pay its operating costs, including administration of the Pennsylvania State Grant and other state-funded student aid programs. PHEAA continues to devote its energy, resources and imagination to developing innovative ways to ease the financial burden of higher education for students, families, schools, and taxpayers.

PHEAA conducts its student loan servicing activities nationally as American Education Services (AES) and FedLoan Servicing.

PHEAA.org



Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency

These materials have been developed and paid for by the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) for informational purposes. Although the information contained in this document is believed to be accurate at the time of printing, PHEAA does not guarantee its accuracy. You should independently verify that this information is correct.

RG-ELEMP
050515