

Education is the Best Bet (SB 328)

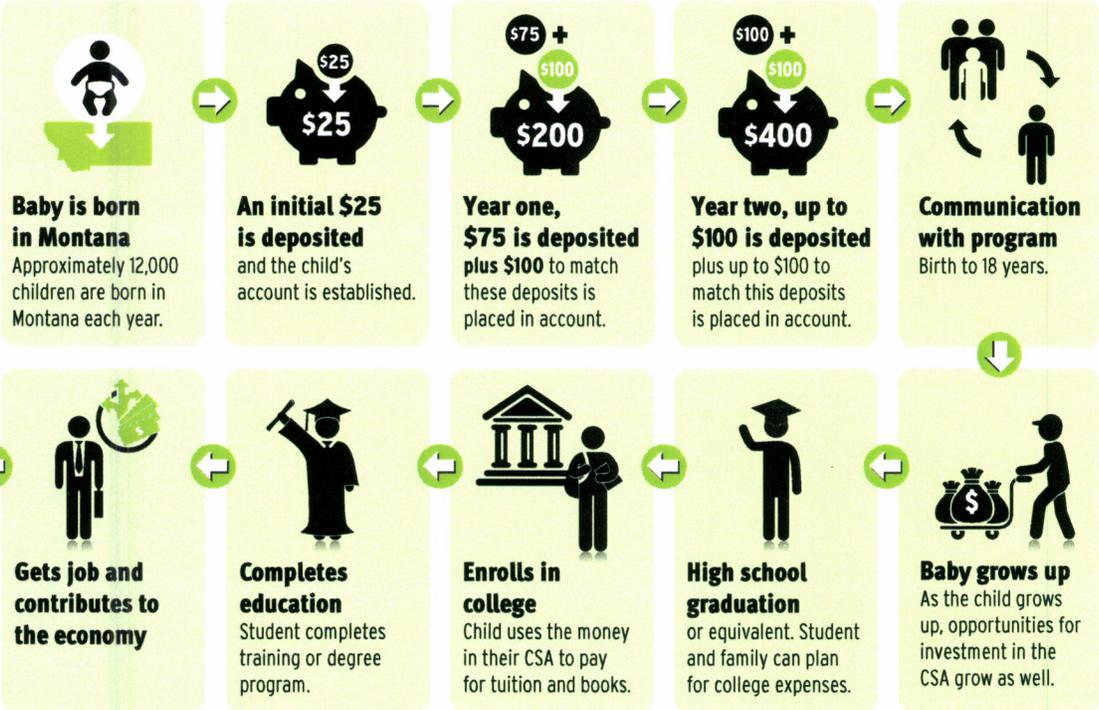
Sponsored by Senator Llew Jones

Supported by Student Assistance Foundation, Associated Students of Montana State, Associated Students of UM, Montana Associated Students, Montana Chamber Foundation, Montana Women's Foundation, Montana's Credit Unions, Montana Organizing Project, OCHE, and Rural Dynamics, Inc.

Education is the Best Bet (SB 328) is an innovative solution to the higher education affordability problem facing Montana in the form of Children's Savings

Accounts. This solution successfully marries a small state investment with personal responsibility.

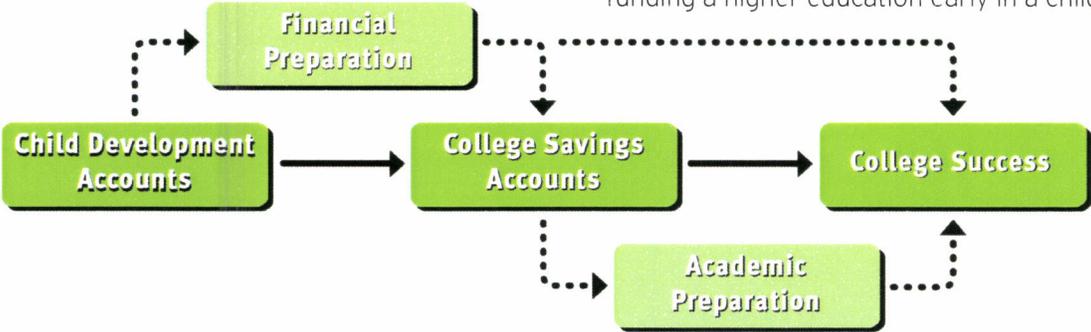
What would Education is the Best Bet look like?



Why do Child Savings Accounts (CSAs) Work?

Research has shown that having college savings:

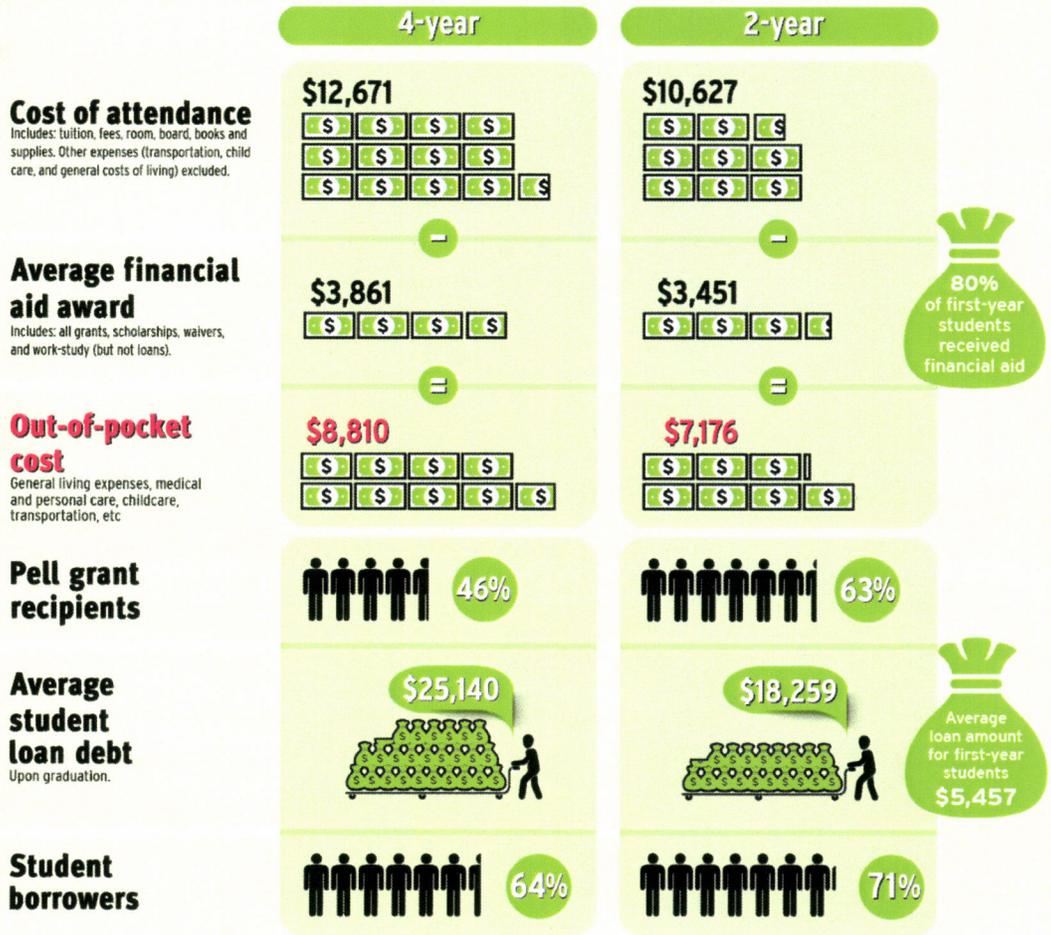
- 🍎 Increases enrollment and graduation rates
 - low-to moderate-income children with savings of \$1 - \$499 are more than 2.5 times more likely to enroll in college and more than 4.5 times more likely to graduate.
 - 74% of children with savings designated for college are enrolled or have graduated from a 2 or 4 year college by age 23 compared to 41% of children without.
- 🍎 Confers significant psychological benefits and measurable impacts related to students' perceptions about their ability to pursue, succeed, and finance college.
- 🍎 Influences school-related behaviors in a way that may increase educational engagement, resulting in greater academic preparedness and success in higher education.
- 🍎 Facilitates asset accumulation for higher education and helps families take on the responsibility of funding a higher education early in a child's life.



College Affordability in Montana

Given the unique needs of Montana's 21st century workforce, increasing access to higher education is crucial to maintaining our competitive edge in a world economy. Unfortunately, in the fall of 2012, only 60% of graduating seniors enrolled in college. The high cost of higher education is a significant barrier for many students.

True cost of college in Montana for Montana students (per year)



Education is the Best Bet Accounts Make College More Affordable

A confluence of economic factors, rising tuition costs, federal lending policies, and insufficient financial literacy are combining to create significant barriers for Montanans to successfully enroll in and complete a college education. We are at a critical moment and Education is the Best Bet accounts can significantly help Montanans afford a college education.

How Money Grows in a CSA

