



Dear Parent or Guardian,

For over ten years students across the country have participated in matched savings accounts programs, also called individual development accounts. These matched savings accounts have given students a hand-up to achieving lifelong goals through rewarding regular savings and participation in financial education, goal-setting, and college and career planning.

Oregon's Matched Education Savings Account College Initiative, or MESA, supports your child's future educational goals. MESA helps close the gap to college affordability through college and career planning, financial education, and reinforcing positive savings behavior by matching your child's savings in his/her special account. Your child can earn up to \$8000 in matching funds through this initiative to be used for tuition, books, fees or supplies at a community college, college or university. MESA is not a loan; your child does not have to pay this earned scholarship back.

The program works by matching your child's savings with \$5 for every dollar your child saves, up to \$1600. When saved over three years, it averages to about \$11 a week. Deposits get made into a special savings account just for this program at one of the partner financial institutions in your area.

**Key MESA Youth Expectations:**

**Youth must commit to making a total monthly deposit of at least \$25 into their matched education savings account, or as agreed in their MESA Savings Plan Agreement. Youth may make as many deposits in a month needed to achieve their savings goal.**

**Youth must also commit to meet with school staff to create an Education Plan and a Savings, Budget and Work Plan that identifies future goals and explores educational and career paths.**

Please take the time to review these commitments with the youth applicant. We look forward to working with you to bring the college dream to life.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Youth Applicant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Sincerely,

The MESA College Initiative

I n v e s t i n a b r i g h t e r f u t u r e



Eligibility is determined in part by your household income. If you can answer yes to any of these questions below, you are probably income-eligible.

Here's a guide to help you determine if you may be income-eligible:

1. Do you receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)?
2. Do you receive the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)? *You can find out by looking at your taxes from last year.*
3. Is your household income at or below the 2009 limit for your household size?

Household Size	Adjusted Gross Income Limit
1	\$21,660
2	\$29,140
3	\$36,620
4	\$44,100
5	\$51,580
6	\$59,060
7	\$66,540
8	\$74,020

*Your adjusted gross income can be found at the bottom of the 1040 tax form on last year's taxes.*