

Using Your RESP Savings

Did you know? As the RESP subscriber, you can request that the RESP provider issue a **Educational Assistance Payment (EAP)** for your child once he/she enrolls in a **Qualifying Educational Program (QEP)**. EAPs are given from income your money made while it was invested in your plan and any government grants, such as the Canada Learning Bond (CLB) and/or the Canada Education Savings Grant (CESG). Your own savings are not included in EAPs, but can be withdrawn at any time to pay for your child's post-secondary education.

What is a Qualifying Educational Program (QEP)? A Qualifying Educational Program is a course of study that lasts at least three weeks in a row, with at least 10 hours of instruction or work each week. Qualifying educational programs include apprenticeships, and programs offered by a trade school, CEGEP (Quebec), college or university.

Is there a limit to the amount of Educational Assistance Payments (EAPs) an RESP beneficiary can receive? Yes. A beneficiary can only receive up to \$5,000 in Educational Assistance Payments (EAPs) before he or she completes 13 weeks in a row of a qualifying educational program. Once this period is over, the beneficiary can get any amount of EAPs. Students requiring more than \$5,000 in EAPs during the first 13 weeks of enrolment may apply to Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) for permission to receive a larger amount. Talk to your RESP provider about the type of RESP plan that works best for your child's education needs.

FACTS ABOUT EAPs

To qualify for an EAP, a beneficiary must:

- Be enrolled in full-time or part-time in a post-secondary program
- Not be receiving regular full-time employment income (part-time or temporary jobs are permitted)
- Not be enrolled in an educational program as part of a work-related initiative.

The Limit's on EAPs are as follows:

- For full-time studies: Up to a maximum of \$5,000 for the first 13 weeks of study and up to the total of all educational expenses after 13 weeks of study.
- For part-time studies: The total of education expenses, up to a maximum of \$2,500 (whichever is less).

FAQs Frequently Asked Questions

What can I do with my RESP if my child does not continue education after high school? You have 4 options. (1) Wait, your child may decide to continue studying later; (2) Transfer the money to a siblings RESP; (3) Transfer money to an RRSP and (4) Consult with your RESP provider about withdrawing your savings.

SOLUTIONS

- ✓ Contact ILRC Thunder Bay at 1 800 461 – 3153 ext. 6 or visit www.canlearn.ca for more information.
- ✓ Get a Social Insurance Number for you and your child at your nearest Service Canada office or visit www.servicecanada.gc.ca
- ✓ Contact an RESP provider at a bank, credit union or other financial service institution.