

Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) Checklist



Do you know what you're investing in?

RESPs can be an effective way to save for post-secondary education, but different plans have different risks and costs. Before you invest, make sure you know these key things about your plan:

1 Have you compared the different types of RESPs?

Different types of plans are available at banks, credit unions, mutual fund companies, investment dealers or scholarship plan dealers. Before you commit, be sure you understand all your options.

2 What fees are you expected to pay, and when?

You may have to pay sales fees when you open the plan, plus other costs as long as you hold the plan.

3 What will happen if you miss a payment?

If you have scheduled payments, you must pay them on time. If you miss a payment, you may lose your membership in the plan—and your earnings. In this case you receive your contributions back, less any fees.

4 What kinds of post-secondary programs qualify?

Programs offered by colleges, universities, trade schools, CEGEPs and other certified institutions are eligible for an RESP. For more information, visit www.hrsdc.gc.ca.

5 When and how will I receive payments from the plan?

To receive payments from your plan, students must show proof of enrolment in a qualifying program to their plan provider, sometimes by a certain deadline. Some plans make payments on a set schedule, while others let you decide. Some plans do not pay out earnings until a student starts the second year of a program.

6 What if the student does not go on to post-secondary education, or does not complete their program?

You receive your contributions back, less any fees. In most cases you will receive your earnings. Some plans may keep these earnings and share them with the remaining members.

7 What if you sign up for a plan, but change your mind?

For group scholarship plans, you can cancel the plan at no cost within 60 days of signing the application. For other types of plans, this time frame may depend on the type of investment you bought.



Before you invest, contact the Nova Scotia Securities Commission:

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