

SAFE WAYS TO SAVE WITH BOSTON SAVES

To save your own money for your child's future, you will need a safe and reliable financial account. Families of [Boston Saves](#) students can link four kinds of accounts in the Savings Center: A savings account, Boston Saves custodial account, checking account, or 529 account. Learn the important differences between these accounts and how to open them below.

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

A savings account is useful for saving because it earns interest. This means that the longer the money stays in the account, the more money it earns. For example, if you put \$20 in a savings account that earns 0.05% interest, you would have \$21 a year later. If you put in \$200, you would have \$210. The more time that passes, the more the money grows.

Different savings accounts have different rules and benefits. You can contact your local bank or credit union to open a savings account. Or you can contact [Bank On Boston](#) for help finding a savings account that's best for you.

BOSTON SAVES CUSTODIAL ACCOUNT

A Boston Saves custodial account is an account at Metro Credit Union that is held for your child by the [Boston Educational Development Fund](#), a long-time nonprofit partner of BPS. A custodial account works just like a savings account, except that you do not need a social security card or identification card to open it. Also, the money in the account has no effect on a family's public benefits. The Boston Saves custodial account is specifically for families of Boston Saves students.

To open a Boston Saves custodial account, email bostonsaves@metrocu.org or call 877.MY.METRO (877.696.3876) ext. 4003. For Spanish, email cgoncalvesdossanto@metrocu.org or call 877.MY.METRO (877.696.3876) ext. 4005.

CHECKING ACCOUNT

A checking account is useful for quick and easy access to money. The account lets you put money in and take money out often. This is helpful for bills and other day-to-day needs. However, a checking account usually has a lower interest rate than a savings account. This means the money does not grow as much as it could.

Different checking accounts have different rules and benefits. You can contact your local bank or credit union to open a checking account. Or you can contact [Bank On Boston](#) for help finding a checking account that's best for you.

529 ACCOUNT

A 529 account is a tax-advantaged savings plan designed to help families save for future education expenses – from college tuition and books to vocational training and more.

Contributions grow tax-free, and withdrawals used for qualified education expenses are never taxed, making it one of the smartest ways to invest in your child's future.

Opening a 529 account alongside your Boston Saves account gives your child an even stronger financial foundation. Get started with MEFA, Massachusetts' trusted resource for education financing, in just a few simple steps:

1. Visit mefa.org to explore Massachusetts' U.Fund College Investing Plan.
2. Create an account by clicking "Open an Account" and entering your personal information.
3. Name your beneficiary – this is the child who will use the funds for education.
4. Choose your investments – MEFA offers a range of options based on your timeline and goals.
5. Make your first contribution – you can start with as little as \$50, and set up automatic deposits to keep saving over time.

Every dollar you save today is a step toward your child's future.

ABLE (ATTAINABLE SAVINGS PLAN) ACCOUNT

An ABLE account is a special account for people with disabilities. The money in an ABLE account is put into the stock market, which can lead to growth. There are also tax benefits to using the money in the account for disability-related costs such as education, housing, healthcare, and support services. The money in an ABLE account has no effect on other disability benefits, such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

Each state runs its own ABLE account with its own rules and benefits. You can [open an ABLE account through MEFA](#) (Massachusetts Education Financing Authority) or [through another state](#).