Bite-Size Finance

RESP Basics: Saving for Their Education
(Registered Education Savings Plan)

Thousands of families may be leaving government money on the table.

Education Savings Grant	vs.	Learning Bond
53%		**43%**
of eligible children got this grant in 2024.[1]		of eligible children got this grant in 2024.[1]

What's an RESP?

A special savings account for a child's education after high school – college, university, trades or apprenticeships. Anyone can open one for a child: a parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle or family friend.

Free Money: CESG (Canada Education Savings Grant)

The government adds 20% of every contribution, up to $500 a year and $7,200 per child over their lifetime.

Free Money: CLB (Canada Learning Bond)

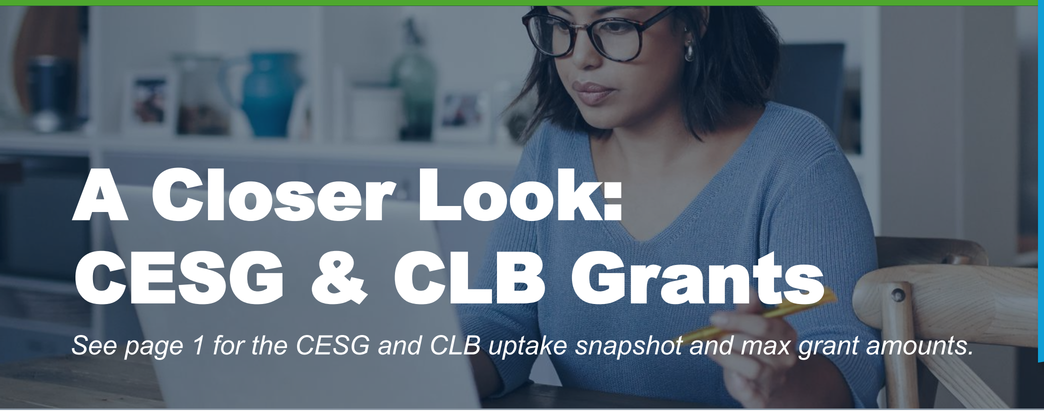
The government pays $500 the year your lower-income child first qualifies, then $100 a year after – up to $2,000 total. No contribution needed.

Contributions & Withdrawals

You can put in up to $50,000 per child (not counting grants) over the life of the plan, for up to 31 years after opening the RESP. You don't get a tax break for contributing, but when money comes out, the grants and growth are taxed as the student's income - usually a low rate.

1. Canada Education Savings Program, Statistical Review 2024–2025

September 2026



A Closer Look: CESG & CLB Grants

See page 1 for the CESG and CLB uptake snapshot and max grant amounts.

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Grant	Who Qualifies	Good to Know
CESG (Canada Education Savings Grant)	Any child with an open RESP that's received a contribution.	The 20% top-up can also make up for grant money missed in past years – it's worth checking if you've missed any.
CLB (Canada Learning Bond)	Family net income below $57,375 (for up to 3 children). [1] No contribution needed to qualify.	You can claim it retroactively for past eligible years, even if the RESP wasn't open yet.

If the Child Doesn't Enroll

Grant money goes back to the government; your contributions come out tax-free.

What's left can be withdrawn (taxed) or moved into your RRSP (a retirement account) or a sibling's RESP.

A Note for Quebec Residents

Quebec families can stack the QESI (Québec Education Savings Incentive - called Incitatif Québécois à l'épargne-études IQEE in French): 10% of contributions, up to $250/year, $3,600 lifetime, on top of the CESG and CLB. An extra top-up is available for lower-income families.

Example: Contribute $2,500 in a year and get $500 from the CESG plus $250 from the IQEE, for $750 in free money.

Key takeaway:
The CESG and CLB are free government money for your child's education. Make sure their RESP is set up to claim every dollar available.

Learn More

- **Article:** How Much Does the Government Contribute to a RESP?
- **Video:** RESPs and How to Save for Your Kid's Education
- **Resource:** How the RESP and related benefits work together

1. CLB eligibility adjusted income brackets for the 2025 to 2026 benefit year

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