



Office of
Jason Crowell State Senator
The Crowell Connection

Senator Jason Crowell – Serving Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi, Perry, and Scott Counties.

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The MOST Program: Making Higher Education More Affordable

Every student should have the opportunity to attend college. This is why I am continually working to curtail rising tuition rates, which adversely affect Missouri families each year. As of this past June, the state's college-savings program (MOST) has been improved so that more families can save for college. MOST, also called Missouri's 529 College Savings Plan, is now offering new opportunities to reduce investment costs, expand services and offer families a wider range of investment options to save for their children's college education.



The MOST plan, which is overseen by State Treasurer Sarah Steelman, helps make saving for college easy and affordable. The plan features significant federal and state tax benefits for Missouri citizens, including a state income tax deduction that

is one of the most generous in the nation. Participants can receive tax credits in the amount of \$8,000 per individual, \$16,000 for married couples filing jointly - for contributions to their MOST account. The plan also features low costs and 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week account access.

MOST's new features expand opportunities for those who invest through the program. Under the new plan, investors can choose from three age-based investment options and 15 individual portfolios. The previous program offered only one age-based investment option and two portfolios.

The new program also offers investment opportunities through credit card purchases. Under the plan, families can register credit cards online, and every time a card is used at any of more than 70,000 registered retailers, a percentage of what is spent will be credited to the family's college-savings plan.

Contributions to MOST accounts grow free of federal and Missouri state income taxes and can be withdrawn tax-free when used for the beneficiary's higher education expenses. Missouri families can get started in the MOST program for as little as \$25, and I encourage everyone to begin saving for college as soon as possible. For more information,

