

Scholars Savings Program



Helping your family save for college today

(626) 782 - 2753 | PromiseNow.org
ssp@promisnow.org

El Monte Promise Foundation Contact Information

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my529
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Contact Information

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(except for federal, State of Utah, and
Utah State Board of Regents holidays)

WEBSITE www.my529.org

EMAIL info@my529.org

IN THIS AGREEMENT

This agreement between El Monte Promise Foundation, henceforth referred to as the **Agency**, and the Scholars Savings Program (SSP) participant listed at the bottom of this agreement, henceforth the **Participant**, details the responsibilities of both parties. Both parties understand that participation in this program is voluntary and involves opening a special college savings account for the benefit of the Participant's child (or another eligible beneficiary), henceforth the **Beneficiary**. During the program, the Participant will receive program statements

on a quarterly or biannual basis via mail, email, or other means.

These statements will contain important information regarding the program, including a list of activities or upcoming events, as well as other useful tips and information regarding saving and financial wellbeing. It is the Participant's responsibility to notify the Agency if s/he does not receive these statements.

ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE

Generally, Participants with Beneficiaries attending public schools in the greater El Monte and South El Monte community are eligible to enroll in the Scholars Savings Program.

Students within El Monte City School District, Mountain View School District, and El Monte Union High School District are eligible to enroll in the Scholars Savings Program, and earn additional incentive dollars henceforth referred as **Scholar Dollars**. Scholar Dollars are offered on an ongoing basis ONLY to Beneficiaries that are enrolled in the schools listed in **TABLE 1**.

The following are abbreviated below:
El Monte City School District – EMCSD
Mountain View School District – MVSD
El Monte Union High School District - EMUHSD.

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ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE Cont.

TABLE 1 - SCHOOL SITES ELIGIBLE TO OFFER SCHOLAR DOLLARS

NAME OF SCHOOL	Name of District	Address
CHERRYLEE	EMCSD	5025 Buffington Road, El Monte, CA 91731
CLEMINSON	EMCSD	5213 North Daleview Ave., Temple City, CA 91780
COLUMBIA	EMCSD	3400 N. California Ave., El Monte, CA 91731
CORTADA	EMCSD	3111 Potrero Ave., El Monte, CA 91733
DURFEE	EMCSD	12233 Star St., El Lmonte, CA 91732
GIDLEY	EMCSD	10226 Lower Azusa Rd., El Monte, CA 91731
LEGORE	EMCSD	11121 Bryant Rd., El Monte, CA 91731
NEW LEXINGTON	EMCSD	10410 E. Bodger St., El Monte, CA 91733
POTRERO	EMCSD	2611 Potrero Ave, El Monte, CA 91733
RIO HONDO	EMCSD	11425 Wildflower Rd., Arcadia, CA 91006
RIO VISTA	EMCSD	4300 Esto Ave., El Monte, CA 91731
SHIRPSER	EMCSD	4020 North Gibson Rd., El Monte, CA 91731
WILKERSON	EMCSD	2700 N. Doreen Ave., El Monte, CA 91733
WRIGHT	EMCSD	11317 McGirk Ave., El Monte, CA 91732
BAKER	MVSD	12043 Exline St., El Monte, CA 91732
COGSWELL	MVSD	11050 Fineview Street, El Monte, CA 91733
LA PRIMARIA	MVSD	4220 Gilman Rd., El Monte, CA 91732
MAXSON	MVSD	12380 Felipe St., El Monte, CA 91732
MIRAMONTE	MVSD	10620 Schmidt Rd, South El Monte, CA 91733
MONTE VISTA	MVSD	11111 Thienes Ave, South El Monte, CA 91733
PARKVIEW	MVSD	12044 Elliott Street, El Monte, CA 91732
PAYNE	MVSD	2850 N. Mountain View Rd., El Monte, CA 91732
TWIN LAKES	MVSD	3900 Gilman Road, El Monte, CA 91732
VOORHIS	MVSD	3501 Durfee Ave, El Monte, CA 91732
ARROYO HIGH	EMUHSD	4921 Cedar Ave., El Monte, CA 91732
MOUNTAIN VIEW HIGH	EMUHSD	2900 Parkway Dr., El Monte, CA 91732

SCHOLARS SAVINGS PROGRAM SAVINGS PLAN AGREEMENT – EVERY KID COUNTS EDITION
FOR ACCOUNTS ENROLLED AFTER MARCH 2020

ROSEMEAD HIGH	EMUHSD	9063 E. Mission Dr., Rosemead, CA 91770
EL MONTE HIGH	EMUHSD	3048 Tyler Ave, El Monte, CA 91731
SOUTH EL MONTE HIGH	EMUHSD	1001 N. Durfee Ave., South El Monte, CA 91733
FERNANDO LEDESMA HIGH	EMUHSD	12347 Ramona Blvd., El Monte, CA 91732

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE AGENCY

THE AGENCY AGREES TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING:

1- Scholar Dollars (Savings Scholarships)

The Agency will provide financial incentives or benefits in the form of Scholar Dollars according to the selected savings plan. Eligibility for incentives are based at the Beneficiary's time of enrollment. For a Beneficiary to redeem Scholar Dollars, the Agency must verify the Beneficiary has graduated from El Monte Union High School District.

Scholar Dollars may be offered in the form of a credit on the account and may include a subsidized rate of return on monthly contributions or a straight (per contribution) credit, as well as occasional raffled prizes.

The Scholar Dollar portion of SSP savings can be used to pay for tuition, fees, books, supplies and/or equipment required by the qualified educational institution for enrollment and attendance. 100% of the Scholar Dollars offered in SSP is secured by the Agency and payment of Scholar Dollars is subject to the rules and policies under section 3 of Mutual Understandings.

The Agency is solely responsible for offering the Scholar Dollar credits in this program. The Financial Provider, as noted in section 1 under Responsibilities of the Participant, is not in any way responsible for offering any

part of the Scholar Dollars noted in this Savings Plan Agreement.

2- Savings Plan

Scholars Savings Program features periods where the Participant will have the opportunity to have their monthly contribution matched 1:1 up to the monthly amount of Scholar Dollars offered within a respective period.

Participants have an opportunity to make "catch up" deposits to try and maximize the amount of Scholar Dollar credits that can be offered to them on the last period of the savings plan.

The Scholar Dollars earned during these periods are not transferred directly to the Beneficiary's account and treated as a credit. Redeeming the credited Scholar Dollars is contingent on the Beneficiary graduating from El Monte Union High School District.

Savings Plan Period One

On the first month following the Beneficiary's enrollment in the program the Participant can save at least \$5 per month to earn up to \$5 in Scholar Dollars credits each month until the 18th month of enrollment. This will earn the Beneficiary up to \$90 in Scholar Dollar credits during this period independent of other periods.

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RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE AGENCY Cont.

THE AGENCY AGREES TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING:

Savings Plan Period Two

Starting on the 19th month of enrollment, the Participant can save at least \$10 per month to earn up to \$10 in Scholar Dollars credits each month until the 30th month of enrollment. This will earn the Beneficiary up to \$120 in Scholar Dollar credits during this period independent of prior periods.

Savings Plan Period Three

On the 31st month of enrollment, the Participant can save at least \$15 per month to earn up to \$15 in Scholar Dollars credits each month for 12 months. This will earn the Beneficiary up to \$180 in Scholar Dollar credits during this period independent of prior periods.

Table 2 below demonstrates the timeline and amount of monthly Scholar Dollars a qualifying Beneficiary can earn over the course of the savings plan offered by the Scholars Savings Program.

3- Additional Incentives and Rewards

Table 2 – Savings Plan Summary

	Months 1-18	Months 19-30	Months 31-42
Your contribution*	\$5 per month	\$10 per month	\$15 per month
Scholar Dollars (SSP Benefits)	\$5 per month	\$10 per month	\$15 per month

**You can make your contributions in any amount. The listed values only represent minimum levels required to claim the highest benefit amounts. You can earn a maximum of \$390 in three years and 6 months.*

Additional benefits in the form of raffle prizes or other benefits may be offered to Participants throughout the program. Specifics of these additional benefits will be announced periodically by the Agency and through program statements as well as the Agency's website (www.promisenow.org). Raffle prizes do not follow a standard structure in terms of amount or timing.

Scholar Dollars offered as part of a promotion are subject to their own terms and rules independent of the savings outlined in this Savings Plan Agreement.

4- Total Scholar Dollars

In total, a qualifying Beneficiary may earn up to a maximum of \$390 Scholar Dollar credits within a span of three years and six months. The Scholar Dollars earned as credits will be awarded to the Beneficiary upon graduation from the El Monte Union High School District.

Due to inclusion of raffle prizes and other benefits, the total amount of Scholar Dollars is undetermined. Inclusion of raffle prizes, rewards, or other benefits that are announced from time to time may increase the total Scholar Dollar amounts for Beneficiaries who earn these additional credits.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTICIPANT

THE PARTICIPANT AGREES TO THE FOLLOWING TERMS:

1- Financial Provider

By participating in SSP, the Participant agrees to establish an individual 529 college savings plan with the designated program Financial Provider, my529. In order to participate in SSP, the Participant must agree to all terms and conditions of the account/plan as set by the Financial Provider, my529.

2- Interested Party Access

In order to calculate and track Scholar Dollars in SSP, the Participant agrees to release its account information to the Agency and/or the contractors representing the Agency. By signing the Interested Party Access form on the my529 website as part of the enrollment process and at the time of opening the account, the Participant allows the Agency and/or contractors representing the Agency to have “read-only” access to basic account information, and the transaction history on the account.

3- Monthly Contributions

On qualifying accounts as outlined in the section Eligibility to Participate, in order to receive the maximum Scholar Dollars available through SSP, the Participant is responsible to make a contribution every month. Scholar Dollars forfeited as a result of missed contributions cannot be made up in subsequent months.

The only exception is Period Three that permits the Participant to make “catch up”

deposits. Deposit amounts higher than the recommended levels are strongly encouraged but will not result in higher Scholar Dollars.

4- Reporting Change of Address

The Participant will provide program staff with written updated information in the event of a change of address, phone number, or emergency contact information within a reasonable amount of time. Failure to inform the program administrator of current contact information may be grounds for termination from the program or may disqualify the Participant from other occasional rewards and benefits if and when such benefits are included in the program. Moreover it is the Participant's responsibility to inform the Agency if the Participant has reason to believe they are not receiving any notification or communication including account statements issued by the Agency to the Beneficiary or the Participant.

Failure on part of the Participant to inform the Agency of any changes in contact information may prevent the Participant from receiving communication from the Agency in a timely fashion. The Agency cannot be held liable for missed communication granted the Participant or Beneficiary does not make a reasonable effort to reach out and document communication with the Agency to ensure the Participant is receiving communication from the Agency.

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RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTICIPANT

Cont.

THE PARTICIPANT AGREES TO THE FOLLOWING TERMS:

5- Participation in Financial Education Workshops

It is the Agency's intention to offer quality financial education workshops and classes to the Participant. Beneficiaries will receive financial education in school as part of the

school curriculum for Beneficiaries attending school sites present in **TABLE 1**, while the Participant will be invited to attend financial workshops offered by industry professionals in various occasions throughout the year. These workshops are part of the SSP benefits and participation is required for all Participants.

Additionally workshops and programming may be offered in an online format for the Participant or Beneficiary to participate.

MUTUAL UNDERSTANDINGS

**THE AGENCY AND THE PARTICIPANT JOINTLY
AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING TERMS:**

1- Joint Participation

For the purpose of this Savings Plan Agreement, the Beneficiary, and the Participant are jointly participating in the Scholars Savings Program. Any notification or communication including account statements issued by the Agency could be sent to the Beneficiary or the Participant. In all cases, both the Beneficiary and the Participant are responsible to abide by the rules and conditions set forth in this agreement.

2- Setting up FDIC-Insured Savings Account

The Participant may set up only one SSP account per Beneficiary as part of SSP. To provide maximum protection from unexpected market fluctuations, the type of 529 plan selected for SSP at the time of enrollment is defaulted to my529's FDIC-insured savings account option held at the Sallie Mae Bank and U.S. Bank (Banks).

Since SSP accounts are individually owned, the Participant can change the investment option to a higher-return vehicle in no less than 30-days from the date of opening the account. However, changing the investment vehicle from an FDIC-insured savings account to another investment option may subject the Participant to additional fees (see section 7 and 8 of Mutual Understandings).

3- Payment of Scholar Dollars

Payment of the Scholar Dollars is subject to the rules of the Scholars Savings Program. Specifically, the Participant understands the Scholar Dollars represent account credits and will be made available only upon:

1. Completion of the Scholars Savings Program.
2. Receiving proof of graduation from El Monte Union High School District.
3. Completion of the Scholars Savings Program Verification Form.

All conditions detailed above must be met to receive the accrued Scholar Dollars. The Agency will transfer the corresponding amount of the Participant's Scholar Dollars into the Participant's individual SSP account.

4- Unqualified Withdrawals, Termination, and the Calculation of Scholar Dollars

Scholar Dollars in SSP are calculated based on a formula that maximizes the amount of Scholar Dollars if and when contributions are made consistently throughout the program. Early withdrawals from SSP due to termination will result in complete forfeiture of Scholar Dollars.

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MUTUAL UNDERSTANDINGS Cont.

**THE AGENCY AND THE PARTICIPANT JOINTLY
AGREE TO FOLLOWING TERMS:**

5- Withdrawals

Once enrolled in SSP, the Participant can continue saving until the Beneficiary graduates from high school, at which point the Beneficiary can use the Participant's savings to pay for Qualified Higher Education Expenses as defined in Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. It is expected that the Participant will make deposits regularly into the Beneficiary's account on a monthly basis.

The process of withdrawal for qualified as well as unqualified purposes is solely governed by my529 and is subject to the terms and conditions set forth by my529 (available at www.my529.org.)

6- Eligibility for Other Scholarships and Public Benefit Programs

The Participant understands that in most cases, saving in this account and at the levels recommended by the program will generally not have a significant impact on the Beneficiary's eligibility to receive financial aid.

The federal government determines the eligibility criteria for federal financial aid. These rules and regulations change from time to time. According to the existing rules, only 5.64% of the value of individual contributions into the 529 plan is counted towards Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

in the financial aid formula. However, EFC requirements are completely waived for many low-income students who meet certain eligibility guidelines.

Moreover, 529 plans are generally not subject to property limit calculations in public benefit programs such as TANF. However, participants who are receiving such benefits are advised to consult their public benefits counselors prior to participating in this program.

7- No Investment or Tax Advice

Nothing contained in SSP materials, in any Financial Provider materials, or on the Agency or Financial Provider's website is intended to constitute investment or tax advice, nor does the Agency give advice or offer any opinion or recommendation on the suitability or tax consequences of any investment plan, strategy, or account, including the FDIC-insured Savings Account option that is used as the default vehicle at the time of enrollment. Any investment decision the Participant makes for a 529 account, that the Participant may choose to open and own, will be based solely on the Participant's own evaluation of the merits of a particular investment decision and tax consequences in light of financial circumstances and investment objectives.

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MUTUAL UNDERSTANDINGS Cont.

**THE AGENCY AND THE PARTICIPANT JOINTLY
AGREE TO FOLLOWING TERMS:**

8- Minimizing Account Fees

All investment options in a 529 plan, including the FDIC-insured savings accounts are subject to fees. By investing in an FDIC-insured savings account and viewing quarterly account statements online, the Participant will be able to avoid paying for most fees that are currently assessed on 529 accounts with the program Financial Provider.

Accordingly, the Agency has worked with the Financial Provider to make both,

1. Enrollment default into an FDIC-insured savings account.
2. Make online access to account statements the default enrollment options in SSP.

Using the default options above, the only remaining fee, the my529 Administrative Asset Fee, is assessed at 0.015% monthly (based on prevailing rates in July 2020) or \$1.80 annually per every \$1,000 invested. Typically, this amount will be fully or partially offset by the regular interest earned on the FDIC-insured savings accounts. The Participant understands that these rates are subject to change and current information regarding these rates is available on the Financial Provider's website, www.my529.org.

Moreover, the Participant understands that by making changes to the default options, the amount of fees assessed on their 529 plan may increase.

9- Premature Termination of the Program

The Agency reserves the right to prematurely terminate the program. In the unlikely event of such an occurrence, the Agency will announce its decision three months in advance of the termination date and will provide the accrued Scholar Dollars in full for the same period.

10- Statements, Letters, and Program Surveys

As part of this college savings program, the Participant will receive quarterly or biannual program statements and deposit reminders from the Agency and/or contractors representing the Agency. Program statements will contain information regarding amounts saved by the Participant, as well as the amount of Scholar Dollars. my529 Statements are also available online but they will not contain information pertaining to Scholar Dollars. From time to time, the Participant may also receive text messages, emails, letters, or short questionnaires for general data collection purposes. The information provided by the Participant will help improve the program in the future.

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MUTUAL UNDERSTANDINGS Cont.

THE AGENCY AND THE PARTICIPANT JOINTLY AGREE TO FOLLOWING TERMS:

11- Confidentiality

The Agency and/or contractors representing the Agency will make all reasonable efforts in order to protect the Participant's privacy by securing all personal and financial records and keeping all such information confidential within the Agency or its designated agents.

While the information collected on program enrollment forms are mainly used for identification purposes, the Agency may occasionally use the data collectively to produce year-end reports for its members and/or donors.

However, under no circumstances will this information be used to report individual outcomes by identifying the Participant. The Agency and/or contractors representing the Agency will not share any personal or contact information with other entities.

By opening a Scholars Savings Account you (the Participant) acknowledge that you have read and understood the contents of this agreement and agree to all terms and conditions of the program and are willing to meet your responsibilities under it.

Services offered to you (the Participant) by the Agency are free of charge because the Agency is supported by government and/or private funding. Periodically, these funders must audit Agency records and files to ensure the Agency it is providing the services it says it will.

By opening a Scholars Savings Account you understand and acknowledge that records may be viewed by a funding auditor to verify you received the services you were entitled to.

The Agency reserves the right to revise and change the terms and conditions of this agreement from time to time. In the event of a change in terms of this agreement, the Agency will inform the Participant of these changes in writing.

12- Acknowledgement

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1- What happens if I miss a monthly deposit?

Deposits missed in the first 30 months of the program cannot be made up. For example, if you miss a deposit in the ninth month, you will not earn the respective Scholar Dollars credits for that month. However, if you miss a deposit in the last period (when the minimum recommended contribution is \$15 per month), you will receive an extension for up to six months to make up any missed contribution during that period.

2- What happens if I deposit less than the recommended monthly level?

The program will match your contributions up to the monthly amount of Scholar Dollars you can earn beginning the first month. If you make a contribution smaller than the recommended level, your Scholar Dollar benefits will be adjusted accordingly. For example, if you make a \$3 deposit in month 9, you will earn \$3 in Scholar Dollar benefits rather than the full \$5 you could earn.

We encourage you to take as much advantage to maximize the amount of Scholar Dollar credits you can earn by depositing **at least** the minimum

recommended amounts outlined in the prior table.

3- If my SSP account is an individually owned account, does it mean that I can close my account at any time?

Yes, you can close your account at any time.

4- How can I claim my Scholar Dollar benefits if I close my account early?

If you close your account early (example: sometime when you earn Scholar Dollar credits but before end of the program), you forfeit the Scholar Dollars earned as credit.

However, if during your participation of the program you have earned Scholar Dollars offered as a bonus to be directly transferred into the Beneficiary's account, the earned bonus will be transferred to your account approximately three months following the account's closure.

Scholar Dollars accrued as a credit will be transferred after you successfully complete the program (when your Beneficiary graduates from a high school in the El Monte Union High School District).

SUMMARY OF LIMITED TIME PROMOTION EVERY KID COUNTS GRANT BONUS FOR QUALIFYING PRE-KINDERGARTEN TO SIXTH GRADE STUDENTS

The El Monte Promise Foundation is proud to partner with the California Student Aid Commission to offer qualifying Beneficiaries an account opening bonus as well as a bonus for actively depositing into the Scholars Savings account. A Participant who enrolls in the Scholars Savings Program with a Beneficiary from the sixth grade or younger is eligible to participate in the promotion offered by the El Monte Promise Foundation to earn up to a \$250 bonus to be transferred directly into the Beneficiary's account.

The promotion will be available for Participants who enroll from March 2020 through October 2020 pending availability of funding offered by the Every Kid Counts Grant.

Account Opening Bonus - \$100

When the Participant opens a Scholars Savings Account with a \$1 deposit at the time enrollment, the Participant's account will receive a \$100 transfer directly to the Beneficiary's account.

The Participant must make a deposit within a month of enrolling in the Scholars Savings Program in order to be credited and awarded the \$100 bonus to the Beneficiary's account. Deposits can be established at the time of enrollment with a personal bank account, or a deposit may be mailed to my529 via check or money order to satisfy the opening deposit requirement.

Building A Savings Habit Bonus - \$150

Starting from the second month following enrollment, the Beneficiary may earn up to a \$25 bonus each month when the Participant saves a minimum of \$1 per month. This bonus is offered for six months for a total of \$150 bonus Scholar Dollars. Benefits offered as

part of this bonus are transferred directly into the Beneficiary's account.

Note: You can earn an additional \$5 per month in Scholar Dollar credits if you increase your deposit to a minimum of \$5 per month during this time (you will earn \$25 in bonus dollars to be transferred to your account, and \$5 in Scholar Dollar credits per month).

Following the initial period of earning bonuses, the Beneficiary can continue to earn Scholar Dollars. The Scholar Dollars earned during the subsequent periods are not transferred directly to the Beneficiary's account and treated as a credit.

The table below details the bonus and credits that can be earned during this limited time promotion.

SCHOLARS SAVINGS PROGRAM SAVINGS PLAN AGREEMENT

	Month 1	Months 2-7	Months 8-18	Months 19-30	Months 31-42
Your contribution*	\$1	\$1 to \$5 per month	\$5 per month	\$10 per month	\$15 per month
Scholar Dollars (SSP Benefits)	\$100	\$25 to \$30 per month	\$5 per month	\$10 per month	\$15 per month

The listed values only represent minimum levels required to claim the highest benefit amounts for this specific promotion. You can earn a maximum of \$635 in three years and six months.