

KICKSTART TO CAREER

Newaygo County

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Kickstart to Career Newaygo County?

Kickstart to Career Newaygo County is a children's saving program that opens accounts for kindergarten students and inspires kids to save for a brighter future. The program is made possible by Fremont Area Community Foundation, ChoiceOne Bank, and Newaygo County schools. An initial \$50 deposit is put into the student's account.

Is my child eligible?

Children who are eligible reside in the Newaygo County Regional Educational Service Agency (NC RESA) school district or a township immediately adjacent to it. Children entering kindergarten in the NC RESA school district, including participating public, private, or parochial schools will be automatically enrolled in the program from fall 2018-2027.

Homeschooled children residing in the NC RESA school district or a township immediately adjacent to it are also eligible within the same time and grade range. Please note that homeschooled children are not automatically enrolled in the program and should register through Fremont Area Community Foundation. Please contact the Community Foundation at 231.924.5350 to enroll.

What kind of account is it?

Accounts are certificates of deposit, meaning the money stays in the account until Fremont Area Community Foundation approves a withdrawal for college and career-related expenses.

Who owns the account?

Accounts are owned by Fremont Area Community Foundation. The money in the account is held in trust for the child. Savings are available for withdrawal upon graduation from high school for college or career expenses.

Do I have to provide my child's social security number or other identifying information?

No. Since Fremont Area Community Foundation owns the account, all that is needed is your child's name, address, date of birth, and student ID number. This information is provided to the Community Foundation by your child's school.



Who can access my child's account?

When your child's account is first opened, you will be mailed a Kickstart to Career account registration form. Only the people listed on that form can request information about your child's account. If you did not complete a form, you can visit kickstarttocareer.org/resources to fill one out.

Does the account earn interest?

Yes. Interest will be credited and annual statements will show you the interest earned. These accounts will not have balance or transaction fees.

Will the money in my child's account affect social services my family receives?

No. The Kickstart account is held by the Community Foundation in the child's name. You do not have to report this as income or assets.

Can my child or family add money to the account?

Yes. Deposits can be made at any ChoiceOne Bank. You will need the child's name, date of birth, and school name to confirm the deposit goes in the correct account. There is no limit on the amount or how often deposits can be made. Students also have the opportunity to add money to their accounts when Kickstart comes to their school for Deposit Days.

Can my child earn additional money for their account?

Yes. Each year, your child will have the opportunity to earn up to \$50 in additional deposits for their account through different incentives offered by the Community Foundation. Parents will be notified of these incentives each year and directions will be sent to the school for tracking the student's completion of incentive opportunities.

What if I move?

If you move within the NC RESA school district, your child is still considered a participant in the program. If moving outside the district, your child will still have access to their account but will not be eligible for incentive deposits. Update your address by contacting Fremont Area Community Foundation.

Can we get money from the account before my child graduates high school?

The accounts are deposit-only until your child graduates from high school. Funds are not able to be withdrawn prior to that time. Approval from the Community Foundation is needed for funds to be released.

What if my child doesn't go to college?

The money in your child's Kickstart account is not just for college! It can also be used for career preparation, such as obtaining a credential or certificate, buying items for work, or other qualified expenses.