



August 2012 eNewsletter

> College Financing 101

You knew this day would come; the day your baby marches off to college. With the big-sticker cost of education these days, many parents don't have the luxury of putting money aside for their kid's education, let alone for themselves. With the rising cost of tuition, the dream of college is getting harder and harder to achieve. But if you act quickly, you still have some options to get back on track.



Depending on the college's cost of attendance, you'll want your future scholar to apply for as many scholarships or grants as they can, such as a [Pell grant](#), which is a federal grant for low-income students or even a grant through your [State Education Department](#). They should also consider applying for a [student loan](#), which can help cover the cost of tuition and books. When these options are exhausted, consider using alternative student loans, like [Bellco's Student Choice loan](#), which is a specialized loan intended to fill the gap between traditional financial aid and the cost of tuition*.

Beyond the cost of tuition, you've got additional financial expenses to consider since financial aid doesn't cover the cost of flying or driving home every semester. Here are some ideas for consideration:

- **Open a joint checking account.** Depending on their age and level of responsibility, this option allows you to keep track of your child's spending, and lets you add funds as needed. A caveat to this is if they're reckless, you could end up getting a credit ding, so let them know this is their chance to show some adult responsibility.
- **Provide them with a credit card.** Preferably one with a low interest rate and a spending limit cap of \$500 to \$1,000. This way, your scholar will become educated on the benefits and pitfalls of managing credit.

For more information on ways to help pay for your child's college, [click here](#).

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ON YOUR AGENDA

Community Events

[Northglenn Concert Series](#)

Aug. 1

[Thornton Concert Series](#)

Aug. 2

[Arvada Flicks in the Square \(every Fri. in August\)](#)

Aug. 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31

[Western Welcome Week](#)

Aug. 8-19

[Thornton Concert Series](#)

Aug. 9

[Lakewood Bark N Splash at Glennon Heights Pool](#)

Aug. 19

[Oyster Race](#)

Aug. 25

BELLCO BRANCHES

New Bellco Branches to Better Serve You

[Cherry Creek Branch](#)

244 Milwaukee Street
Denver, CO 80206
(720) 479-5277

*All loans are subject to approval.

> Back to School Savings

If you're a parent, you'll likely have no problem remembering that it's Back-To-School time once again. Whether it's a supermarket, retail chain, or television commercial, you've been inundated with Back-To-School messaging since the beginning of July. Simply trying to navigate each child's school supply needs can be overwhelming and costly, but with a few tips, you'll be able to get the little ones off to school without a hitch.



Nowadays, most schools send home a school supply list that your child will need, covering everything from notebooks and calculators to water bottles and facial tissues. Depending on their grade level, average supply costs can range anywhere from \$80 to \$150 per child. And that doesn't include school lunches or school uniforms.

Here are some tips that will help you save money this school year:

- **Stick to the teacher's list.** Teacher's supply lists are designed to be very specific and thorough. As much as your child deems fruit-scented markers as a basic need, don't stray off the list. They'll end up being discarded at school or traded for chocolate milk, leaving you with a thinner wallet.
- **Leave Spider Man at home.** Not only are branded characters discouraged at schools, but their fleeting popularity gives them a shorter life span in your child's eye. Because most characters are well-branded, marketed, and trademarked, they also tend to cost more. This rule applies to backpacks, lunch boxes, and notebooks.
- **The last minute deal.** If you're brave enough to gamble on an End-of-Summer Sale, you'll find some sweet deals on school supplies. Retailers want those supplies completely gone, so they're willing to take discounts of up to 75% off. So make a plan to get the hard-to-find items early, and stock up on items like pencils, pens, and paper later in the summer.
- **What's old is new again.** Start scouring your home and office for unused or gently used school supplies. If your child's never seen that 3-ring binder that's been collecting dust, make an art project out of it by having them decorate it with stickers or drawings that reflect their interests. For clothes, great deals can be had at second-hand stores, so don't be afraid to shop there, especially for the younger kids as they have a tendency

Lone Tree Branch

9220 Park Meadows Drive
Lone Tree, CO 80124
(720) 479-5276

Downtown Branch (new location)

951 16th Street Suite 101
Denver, CO 80202
(720) 479-5260

Find a [Bellco branch](#) near you.

BELLCO COMMUNITY

Follow Bellco on [YouTube](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Foursquare](#) to get quick tips, news on events and other up-to-the-minute Bellco information.



to outgrow their clothing on a regular basis.

> It's About Time in The Market—Not Timing The Market

There is no magic formula to know the right time to invest in the stock market—or the right time to get out. When the market falls, many new investors believe they got in at the wrong time and end up jumping out.



But experts agree that it's usually a better idea to sit tight rather than jump. After all, a well-diversified financial plan has proven to be a time-tested method to help ease the pain of market corrections.

Thankfully, the Financial Advisors at [The Investment Center at Bellco Credit Union](#), available through CUSO Financial Services, L.P. (CFS)*, can provide strategies to help investors maintain a disciplined approach to long-term investing during uncertain economic times.

Here are five steps you can take to help improve the chances of reaching your long-term financial goals.

1. Make an appointment to sit down with your financial advisor and develop an overall financial plan.
2. Develop a financial strategy you can live with—no matter what happens in the economy, housing market, or financial markets.
3. Set realistic performance expectations.
4. Diversify your portfolio across different types of investments and financial products.
5. Revisit your financial plan on a regular basis and make adjustments as your goals grow and change.

Our Financial Advisors are a prudent source for market and investment information. They can help review whether or not your time horizon, risk tolerance, and financial situation still match your unique investment objectives.

Call 303-728-3443, email cfsinvsrefs@bellco.org, or stop by any Bellco branch to schedule a complimentary personalized appointment with a CFS Financial Advisor.

*Non-deposit investment products and services are offered through CUSO Financial Services, L.P. ("CFS"), a registered broker-dealer (Member [FINRA/SIPC](#)) and SEC Registered Investment Advisor. Products offered through CFS: are not NCUA/NCUSIF or otherwise federally insured, are not guarantees or obligations of the credit union, and may involve investment risk including possible loss of principal. Investment Representatives are registered through CFS. Bellco Credit Union has contracted with CFS to make non-deposit investment products and services available to credit union members.

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