



STARTing Line

4th Quarter 2012

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Deadline for 2012 College Savings Tax Exemption is December 28

START Account Owners Can Exempt Up to \$4,800 in Deposits Per Account This Tax Year.

December 28 is the deadline for Louisiana families to qualify for the 2012 tax benefits provided by START, the state's 529 college savings program.

Deposits to new and existing accounts must be received by 3:00 p.m. CST on December 28, 2012 to qualify for tax benefits and state matching contributions for the current calendar year.

START investors can exempt up to \$2,400 in deposits per beneficiary per year from income reported on their state tax returns. For married couples filing jointly, the exemption from income can be up to \$4,800 in deposits. If account owners are unable to make \$2,400 (or \$4,800) in deposits in one year, they can carry forward unused portions to subsequent years.

"START account owners should send in their deposits as early as possible, especially because of the holiday season," said Carol Fulco, START Director. "This is also the perfect time of year to give a gift of education by opening a new START account for a child, grandchild, niece, nephew or other family member," Fulco added. Both online and printable applications are available at www.startsaving.la.gov.

In addition to a \$2,400 or \$4,800 annual tax exemption, START benefits include a state-paid match on deposits made each calendar year ranging from 2 percent to 14 percent, depending on the account's classification and owner's adjusted gross income. Other benefits include a choice of investment options in fixed, variable and mixed portfolios; the flexibility to use funds at any accredited college or university for tuition, room and board, books, fees and more; and a tax exemption on earnings when used to pay these expenses.

START deposits can be sent by overnight delivery to: START Saving Program, Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA), 602 North Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. Postmarks or payments mailed but not received by 3:00 p.m. on December

28, 2012, will not be credited until 2013 and will not be eligible for 2012 tax incentives.

Deposits will also be accepted in person in the Mobile/Manchac Room on the first floor of the Galvez Building in downtown Baton Rouge at 602 North Fifth Street from 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 26 through Friday, December 28. Parking is available in the Galvez Parking Garage on North Street and parking can be validated by the Galvez Building Security guard on duty. For more information, contact the Office of Student Financial Assistance toll-free at 1-800-259-5626.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
December						1
2012						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 <i>Deadline</i>	29
30	31					



Give the Gift of Higher Education

Are you looking for the perfect gift for a loved one this holiday season? Consider giving the gift of higher education through a START Saving account!

With the rising cost of education, students find themselves with more expenses than scholarships and grants can cover. This is why it is so important to start saving for a child's college education early.

You can contribute to your loved one's future education this holiday season by opening a START Saving account in their name or donating to their existing account. To open an account, simply complete the application online at www.startsaving.la.gov or download, print, and complete the paper application and submit it to: START Saving Program, P.O. Box 91271, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9271.

Printable gift certificates are available at <http://www.startsaving.la.gov/savings/forms.jsp>. Show a special child in your life how invested in their future you are today by giving them the gift of higher education!



Printable gift cards are also available with Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa themes.



Baby Grand at Woman's Hospital



From L to R: Jerri Mack, START mascot Earl E. Start, and Ebony Holmes attended Baby Grand at Woman's Hospital to give expectant parents information about the START Saving program.

Over 2,000 new and expecting parents learned about the START Saving program at this year's Baby Grand event, hosted by Woman's Hospital in Baton Rouge.

The event, which brought together parents and numerous organizations from across the state, was attended by two members of LOSFA's Public Information and Communications (PIC) outreach team.

PIC Supervisor Jerri Mack and Representative Ebony Holmes spread START's message of saving for college from an early age and gave the crowd information on how to start saving for their children's educations.



LOSFA's Social Media



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<http://www.twitter.com/LOSFA>



<http://www.youtube.com/LOSFA1000>



www.Flickr.com/LOSFA

LOSFA



START
SAVING FOR COLLEGE

For more information, contact the
START Saving Program:

By Phone: 800-259-5626

By E-mail: start@startsaving.la.gov

By Mail: P.O. Box 91271, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9271

Web Address: www.startsaving.la.gov

For submissions, opinions or comments for STARTing Line,
please contact Gus Wales at Gus.Wales@la.gov.