



**KENTUCKY**  
Education Savings Plan Trust

# KESPT Connection

Summer 2017

## Keep your kids sharp this summer and head to the library!

It's a documented fact that kids who do not use their brains during the summer months tend to lose some of what they've learned during the prior academic year. Many teachers lament the fact that they have to spend the early part of each new school year helping students get caught up.

In a 2009 government web cast, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan described this summer learning loss as "devastating." Studies estimate that summer breaks cause the average student to lose up to one month of instruction, with disadvantaged students being disproportionately affected (Cooper, 1996). Fortunately, your local library offers an easy and inexpensive way to help combat learning loss: summer reading!

Most public libraries offer some form of summer reading program to keep kids intellectually stimulated when they are out of school. Reading programs are targeted by age group and many libraries offer prizes or other incentives to encourage the reading of multiple books during the summer. Barbara Heyn (1978) found that, "More than any other public institution, including schools, public libraries contribute to the intellectual growth of children during the summer." In a 2001 study prepared for the Pennsylvania Library Association, Drs. Celano and Neumann monitored differences between children participating in public library summer reading programs and those involved in local recreational summer programs. They concluded that, in addition to literacy-related activities, children in library programs benefited academically from story hours, arts and crafts, and other special events designed to enhance the reading experience.

### Read. Save for College. Change the World.

In Kentucky, there is even more reason to head to your public library during the summer. The Kentucky Education Savings Plan Trust (KESPT) is giving away eight \$1,000 college savings accounts to families participating in their local library's summer reading program. Libraries have been supplied with entry forms for patrons to enter. Parents/grandparents/guardians simply complete and mail a postage-paid entry on behalf of a child by August 18. Winners will be randomly selected and each winner's library will also receive a \$500 award for future programs. (Void where prohibited. No purchase required. Read official rules at [kysaves.com](http://kysaves.com). Sponsored by KESPT.)

Remember, you and your family can have some fun, avoid the "summer slide" and learn about saving for college all for free at your local public library. For more information, visit [kysaves.com](http://kysaves.com).

Source: *THE IMPORTANCE OF SUMMER READING: Public Library Summer Reading Programs and Learning*, The New York State Library, Research Brief No.1 January 2010 (updated November 2011) [www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer/brief01.pdf](http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer/brief01.pdf).



## KESPT Tips

Keep your college savings on track by setting up an automatic contribution plan. And don't forget to ask friends and family to contribute as gifts.

Are your investments allocated appropriately for your beneficiary's age? You can rebalance up to twice per calendar year.

Time to start paying for school? You can send money directly to the school.

You can manage all these activities by logging into your account at [kysaves.com](http://kysaves.com).



This letter must be preceded or accompanied by a Disclosure Booklet for the Kentucky Education Savings Plan Trust. Investments in the Plan are neither insured nor guaranteed and there is the risk of investment loss. Before investing in a 529 plan, consider whether the state in which you or your Beneficiary reside has a 529 plan that offers favorable state tax benefits that are available if you invest in that state's 529 plan.

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