



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**GARY HEBL**  
46TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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INFORMATIONAL COLUMN

**INVESTING IN EDUCATION – GETTING A HEAD START**

MADISON - Every year thousands of students leave their familiar high school environment to begin their college career. Whether this journey begins hundreds of miles away at a prestigious Ivy League university or at a tech school near their community, the price for a college education is high, and it continues to rise each year.

The average cost of tuition at University of Wisconsin System colleges is approximately \$4,970 per academic year, while private universities in our state range from \$7,500 to over \$25,000. Yearly costs for Wisconsin technical colleges average about \$2,400. These numbers do not include the cost of books, room and board, transportation and other expenses.

I believe pursuing a higher education is important, however, after studying these statistics it is obvious that college is a costly endeavor. In order to cut back on the financial strain, it is essential to plan ahead. EdVest College Saving Program is available to families nationwide in order to aid in this process.

“EdVest is an innovative qualified tuition program that helps families across the country invest for one of their most important financial goals - their children’s education,” State Treasurer Jack Voight said of the program.

With this program, you can open an account on behalf of a designated beneficiary. The money you put into your account will grow federal and potentially state tax-free until the time your beneficiary is ready to go to college. Contributions of up to \$3,000 are deductible from Wisconsin taxable income.

The money in your EdVest account can be used for tuition, books, room and board and other educational expenses at any eligible school in the United States.

As of this year, there are over 200,000 EdVest accounts nationwide and over \$1.5 billion invested. With several types of investment options, it is easy to find one that meets any investor's needs. EdVest also offers assistance from a financial advisor.

Besides tax incentives, the program offers convenience and flexibility. It is my hope that you will consider EdVest while planning for your child's future education. For more information on EdVest and other college saving programs, please contact my office at 266-7678.

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