

CHESLA

CONNECTICUT HIGHER EDUCATION SUPPLEMENTAL LOAN AUTHORITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Partnership of State Agencies Announces New On-Line Resource for Connecticut Students and Families

***CT Dollars & Sense:* A One-Stop Shop to Help Plan, Save, and Pay for College**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hartford, CT – A partnership of State agencies today launched *CT Dollars & Sense*, a new on-line portal that provides one convenient website for Connecticut students and parents to find out how to plan, save and pay for college.

CT Dollars & Sense, www.CTDollarsandSense.com, combines college planning and financial literacy information from five separate agencies: the Connecticut Higher Education Trust (CHET), the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority (CHESLA), the Office of Higher Education, the Department of Banking, and the Department of Consumer Protection.

Students can get information on scholarships, loans, and college savings plans, and also learn how to budget their money or find internships. In addition, iGrad provides financial literacy information and resources on the site.

The site's welcome message reads, "Welcome to CT Dollars & Sense, Connecticut's one-stop shop for helping you plan, save and pay for college. We have the information that you need – whether you're trying to save, looking for scholarships, considering a loan, or just want to figure out how to put it all together. CT Dollars & Sense – a great resource for Connecticut students and their families."

State Treasurer Denise L. Nappier, Trustee of CHET, Connecticut's 529 College Savings Program, stated, "College affordability has become an important issue for families across the state and the country, with a lack of adequate financing causing an increasing number of students to go deeply into debt or, in some cases, drop out. CHET is proud to play a part in making college education more accessible for Connecticut families despite the headwinds of our time. This new website – by offering information on saving for college, student loan options, financial aid, and scholarships, all in one place and in easy to understand language – should prove invaluable to our State's students and their families."

CHESLA Executive Director Jeanette W. Weldon added that “this new website is informative and easy to use. Students can learn how to handle their finances and plan for future careers using a lot of fun, interactive content that will help improve their financial literacy.”

Keith Norton, Acting Executive Director of the Office of Higher Education also emphasized that “Financial literacy is a critical skill which our young people must possess as they prepare for both careers and running their own households. CT Dollars & Sense provides students the opportunity to develop a keen understanding of personal financial responsibility while at the same time providing critical information used to determine how best to finance higher education costs.”

CTDollarsandSense.com is accessible on a computer or mobile device. The site is being promoted through school counselors and financial aid offices, and will be regularly updated with new information.