Parent PLUS loans are one way to help your child pay for college, but they're not for everyone. Here's a quick overview of PLUS loans to help you decide if they're a good option for you and your family.

Your PLUS loan will be managed by a federal student loan servicer. You can look up your servicer at studentaid.gov once the first loan payment has been disbursed. There are several repayment plans you could be eligible for, and there's no penalty if you prepay your loan. While you can borrow up to the amount of the cost of attendance minus any financial aid your student receives, that doesn't necessarily mean you You can get an idea of what your monthly payment would be by using the Loan Simulator. Remember to factor in any other payments you need to make before you decide to take on a PLUS loan, and for how much.

For most people, a loan from the federal government is better than one from a private lender. Interest rates on federal loans are fixed (which means they won't change over time), so you'll know exactly what you're getting into. You also have several options for repaying the loan, including ones that depend on your level of income. Private loans tend to have much stricter repayment rules and their