



STATE STATUTES
CURRENT THROUGH APRIL 2020

Educational Supports for Older Youth in Foster Care

To find statute information for a particular State, go to the [State Statutes Search](#).

Youth who are or have been in foster care often encounter challenges in maintaining progress in achieving their educational goals.¹ The John H. Chafee Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (Chafee program), as authorized under title IV-E of the Social Security Act, provides funding to States for services and supports to ensure these youth receive the educational services they need to make a successful transition to adulthood. These funds may be used to aid youth in their efforts to obtain a high school diploma and pursue postsecondary education or vocational training.²

¹ Further discussion of this issue is provided in the publication from the Legal Center for Foster Care and Education, [National Factsheet on the Educational Outcomes of Children in Foster Care](#).

² 42 U.S.C. 677(a) (2019)

WHAT'S INSIDE

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For this publication, statutes, regulations, and policies regarding the services and programs available to support the achievement of the educational goals of youth in foster care were collected from across all States, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories. An analysis of the information collected informs the content that follows.

SUPPORT FOR COMPLETING HIGH SCHOOL

Through the Chafee program, youth who are or have been in foster care are eligible for certain educational supports that focus on enabling youth to seek a high school diploma or its equivalent. Approximately 38 States and the District of Columbia have laws or policies that describe the services that support youth in reaching their secondary education goals.³

Examples of the specific types of assistance that State laws and policies allow include the following:

- Academic counseling
- Preparation for a general educational development (GED) high school equivalency certification, including studying for the GED exam
- Tutoring, help with homework, and study-skills training
- Literacy training
- Help accessing educational resources

³ The word "approximately" is used to stress the fact that States frequently amend their laws. This information is current through April 2020. The States that have laws or policies that describe the educational services provided include Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

⁴ Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin

- Credit recovery programs for youth who are behind in school or dropout recovery programs for youth who have dropped out of school and fallen behind academically to help them take or repeat a course through classroom, online, small-group, or one-on-one instruction

PLANNING FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

Approximately 38 States⁴ and the District of Columbia have laws or policies that describe the services that help youth plan and prepare to enter postsecondary education programs, including college attendance or vocational training. These postsecondary educational supports may include counseling, mentoring, career planning, assistance with completing applications for admission, and financial assistance.

Examples of the specific types of assistance that State laws and policies allow include the following:

- College preparatory programs and planning assistance
- Classes to prepare for college aptitude tests
- Assistance with completing college applications and financial aid applications
- Payment of fees for college aptitude tests and college applications
- College tours

- Tutoring while in college
- Designated on-campus personnel to assist the student in accessing available supports and services⁵

FINANCIAL SUPPORTS FOR POSTSECONDARY PROGRAMS

Any youth may be eligible for Federal financial assistance, such as a Pell grant, to help pay for college attendance. To determine eligibility for this assistance, the youth must complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). In general, Federal financial assistance recognizes that youth who were in foster care are in unique circumstances with regards to how aid is considered. For example, neither legal guardians nor foster parents are considered parents when the youth completes the FAFSA, and information regarding their income and household size do not need to be included.⁶

A source of financial support specifically for youth who have been in foster care is the Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program. The ETV program is a federally

funded, State- or Tribe- administered program that was added to the Chafee program in 2002. It provides limited financial assistance for postsecondary training and education to youth who have aged out of foster care or who have left foster care after age 16 through kinship guardianship or adoption. Eligible students may receive grants of up to \$5,000 per year for up to 5 years or until their 26th birthday. The ETV program can only help students pay for items as established in the institution's "Cost of Attendance" such as tuition, room and board, meal cards, and books and school supplies.

Approximately 34 States⁷ provide their own State-funded financial assistance to students who are or were formerly in foster care,⁸ usually in the form of vouchers, waivers, grants, or scholarships that cover the full cost of tuition and fees to attend the State's public universities.⁹ These tuition waivers can be applied to 2- and 4-year degree programs or vocational training programs. In 15 States,¹⁰ the amount of financial assistance may be sufficient to cover some of the student's

⁵ In Alabama, California, Florida, Indiana, Maine, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Washington, and the District of Columbia

⁶ For more information on these requirements, see the factsheet published by National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, [Students in Unique Situations: Tips for Completing the 2018-19 Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA®\)](#).

⁷ Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa (covers one-half the average cost of tuition), Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont (for up to \$3,000 annually), Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia

⁸ Four other states—Indiana, Nebraska (for one-half the cost of tuition), Ohio, and South Carolina—have scholarships programs for students demonstrating financial need that is also available to youth currently or formerly in foster care.

⁹ In Pennsylvania, eligible institutions of higher education include private colleges and universities.

¹⁰ California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, New Hampshire (through a separate application for a room-and-board scholarship), New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island, and Washington

other expenses, including room, board, books, supplies, and transportation costs.¹¹

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

A youth may qualify for the ETV program if he or she meet the following criteria:

- Is age 14 or older and currently in foster care
- Was in foster care at age 18 and is not yet age 21
- Was adopted or placed in a guardianship from foster care after his or her 16th birthday

A State or Tribe may allow youth participating in the voucher program to remain eligible until they reach age 26, as long as they are enrolled in a postsecondary education or training program and are making satisfactory progress toward completion of that program. A youth may participate in the program for more than 5 years (whether or not the years are consecutive).¹²

Eligibility requirements for State tuition assistance programs vary from State to State, but typically the applicant will need to meet at least the following criteria:

- Be a resident of the State
- Be a U.S. citizen or a noncitizen who is lawfully present in the country
- Has been accepted into or enrolled in a degree, certificate, or other accredited program at a State-funded college or university
- Has completed and submitted the FAFSA
- Maintains a minimum grade point average

¹¹ The University of Washington maintains a web page, [Tuition Waivers by State](#), that provides information by State on tuition waivers and contact information for each waiver program manager.

¹² For more information on Federal ETV requirements, see the Program Instruction [ACYF-CB-PI-18-06](#), issued by the Children's Bureau on May 31, 2018.

This publication is a product of the State Statutes Series prepared by Child Welfare Information Gateway. While every attempt has been made to be complete, additional information on these topics may be in other sections of a State's code as well as agency regulations, case law, and informal practices and procedures.

and makes satisfactory academic progress toward completion of the educational or vocational program

SUGGESTED CITATION:

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ALABAMA

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

This issue is not addressed in the statutes, regulations, and policies reviewed.

Planning for Postsecondary Education

Citation: Ala. Code § 38-12B-3

The Fostering Hope program shall include a mentor service administered by the department as a support system for participants of the college tuition scholarship program. This service shall include mentors who shall be compensated by the department, as employees or contractors, to help participants adapt to independent living and to academics and other college or university activities.

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: Ala. Code § 38-12B-6

To be eligible to participate in the Fostering Hope scholarship program, a scholarship applicant shall satisfy all of the following:

- Be in the legal custody of the foster care program of the Department of Human Resources (DHR) at the time of graduation from high school or earning a general educational development (GED) high school equivalency certification or in the permanent legal custody of the foster care program of the department when his or her adoption is finalized, at age 14 or older, and he or she has graduated from high school or earned a GED certification
- Have net personal assets worth less than \$30,000, subject to adjustment by the DHR commissioner to account for inflation
- Be younger than age 26 at the start of the semester, training program, or certification program for which tuition or fees are requested from the program
- Be accepted for enrollment in a degree-granting, training, or certification program or is enrolled and working toward a degree, certificate, or completion of a job-training program at a public 2-year or 4-year institution of higher education or publicly funded training program in the State
- Be making adequate progress toward the completion of a degree, certification, or training program, as determined by rules promulgated by the department
- Has completed and submitted to the U.S. Department of Education a Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or the equivalent, before each year in which he or she receives a Fostering Hope scholarship

The applicant must have applied for all Federal student financial aid grants, including Pell Grants, Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants, and education and training vouchers, identified as being available for the student's application by the department or by Federal Student Aid, an office of the U.S. Department of Education, or its successor agency.

To be eligible to participate in the program after the first year of participation, an applicant also shall satisfy all of the following:

- Complete, after the first academic year in which he or she receives a Fostering Hope scholarship, annual volunteer service requirements or employment requirements pursuant to rules promulgated by the department
- Remain in good standing with the policies established by the college, university, or other training or certification program in the State in which he or she is enrolled

Scholarship funds may be disbursed only if sufficient funding for the Fostering Hope program is available.

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: Ala. Code §§ 38-12B-2; 38-12B-3; 38-12B-5; 38-12B-7; 38-12B-8; 38-12B-9

The department shall develop and administer Fostering Hope, a State-funded scholarship program for designated persons currently or formerly in the State foster care program, including children adopted from the program at age 14 or older. Commencing with the 2016–2017 academic year, the program, on behalf of participants, shall do either of the following:

- Pay for tuition and required fees at any public 2-year or 4-year institution of higher education in the State
- Pay required fees for job-training courses or skills certifications that are offered by any public 2-year or 4-year institution of higher education in the State or other publicly funded training programs in the State, and not considered an associate degree, if the courses or certifications are first approved by the department

Payments of tuition and required fees are considered program scholarships.

The program shall pay tuition and required fees for a participant, as governed by rules promulgated by the department. In no event shall tuition and required fees be paid for more than 72 academic hours toward an associate degree or 144 academic hours toward a bachelor's degree for each participant. The program shall pay only tuition and fees relating to an undergraduate degree.

A scholarship awarded pursuant to this chapter may not be reduced by the amount of any Federal aid, scholarship funds, or grant funds otherwise received by the person or by the amount of any private donations made to assist the Fostering Hope program.

Fostering Hope scholarship funds shall be applied to tuition and mandatory fees before any other grant, loan, voucher, or scholarship the student may be awarded to attend a public 2-year or 4-year institution of higher education in the State or publicly funded State training program.

Any other provision of this chapter to the contrary notwithstanding, an otherwise eligible person who earns grants, scholarships, or other awards, excluding loans, sufficient to pay his or her tuition, room and board, and other fees at a public 2-year or 4-year institution of higher education in the State or publicly funded State training program, as governed by rules promulgated by the department, may not participate in the Fostering Hope program.

ALASKA

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

This issue is not addressed in the statutes and regulations reviewed.

Planning for Postsecondary Education

This issue is not addressed in the statutes and regulations reviewed.

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: AK Dept. of Health and Social Services website

A State-funded University of Alaska Presidential Foster Youth Tuition Waiver may be awarded to a person who meets the following qualifications:

- The person must be a youth who is or was in the custody of the Office of Child Services (OCS) and in foster care (out-of-home care) on or after his or her 16th birthday and has not yet reached age 21.
- The person must be a resident of Alaska.

- The person must be accepted into an undergraduate certificate or degree program and enroll in classes by the first fall semester following receipt of the award or graduation from high school, whichever occurs later.
- The person must maintain good standing within the university community (academic, financial, and conduct).
- The person must maintain a cumulative grade-point average (GPA) of 2.0 or higher.

A State-funded Alaska Pacific University (APU) Promise Tuition Grant for Foster Youth may be awarded to a person who meets the following qualifications:

- The person must be a youth who is or was in OCS custody and in foster care (out-of-home care) on or after his or her 16th birthday and has not yet reached age 21.
- The person must be a resident of Alaska.
- The person must complete Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education requirements for the Alaska Education Grant and Alaska Performance Scholarship, if applicable.
- The person must be eligible for the Federal Pell Grant, as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.
- The person must be accepted into an undergraduate certificate or degree program and enroll in classes by the first fall semester following receipt of the award or graduation from high school, whichever occurs later.
- The person must complete the APU donor-funded scholarship application.
- The person must maintain good standing within the university community (academic, financial, and conduct).
- The person must maintain satisfactory academic progress and financial aid standards, including a 67 percent course completion rate and a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher.

To be eligible for a federally funded Education Training Voucher (ETV), a youth must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- The youth is or was in OCS custody and in foster care (out-of-home care) on or after his or her 16th birthday and has not yet reached age 21.
- The youth must have completed a high school diploma or earned a general educational development diploma.
- The youth must be accepted into a qualifying institution of higher education.
- The youth must be enrolled in a program prior to his or her 21st birthday to receive funds until he or she reaches age 23.
- The youth must be attending an accredited school at least half-time.

An accredited school is one that meets the following criteria:

- Awards a bachelor's degree or no less than a 2-year program that provides credit toward a degree
- Provides no less than 1-year of training toward gainful employment or is a vocational program that provides training for gainful employment and has been in existence for at least 2 years

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: AK Dept. of Health and Social Services website

The University of Alaska, in partnership with OCS, offers 15 Presidential Foster Youth Tuition Waivers each year to eligible youth currently and formerly in foster care. Presidential Foster Youth Tuition Waivers can be used toward the cost of tuition at any University of Alaska campus for up to 144 undergraduate credits within 6 years, not to exceed 10 semesters.

APU, in partnership with OCS, offers up to 10 Promise Tuition Grants (PTGs) for Foster Youth each year to eligible youth currently and formerly in foster care to reduce the cost of tuition to \$0 for those who qualify for the APU PTG program. PTG for Foster Youth can be used each fall and spring semester for up to 5 years.

The federally funded ETV program offers financial assistance to eligible youth who are currently or formerly in foster care to attend an accredited college, university, or vocational or technical college.

The maximum ETV award is \$5,000 per academic year. Awards are unique to each student and are based on the cost of attendance formula established by his or her college of choice. The award can cover the following school-related expenses:

- Tuition
- Student fees
- Books and supplies
- Room (on-campus or off-campus housing)
- Board (food)
- Transportation
- Personal/miscellaneous expenses
- Child care

Once awarded an ETV, the student must maintain good academic standing and meet the institution's satisfactory academic progress policy.

For more information on these programs, see the OCS [website](#).

AMERICAN SAMOA

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

This issue is not addressed in the statutes and regulations reviewed.

Planning for Postsecondary Education

This issue is not addressed in the statutes and regulations reviewed.

Eligibility Requirements

This issue is not addressed in the statutes and regulations reviewed.

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

This issue is not addressed in the statutes and regulations reviewed.

ARIZONA

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

Citation: Ann. Stat. § 8-521

The Department of Child Safety (DCS) shall establish an educational case-management unit within the department consisting of two case managers to develop and coordinate educational case-management plans for youth participating in the independent-living program and to assist youth in the program to do the following:

- Graduate from high school
- Pass the statewide assessment pursuant to § 15-741

Planning for Postsecondary Education

Citation: Ann. Stat. § 8-521; DCS Pol. & Proc. Man. Ch 5, § 35

The educational case-management unit also shall assist youth participating in the independent-living program to do the following:

- Apply for postsecondary financial assistance
- Apply for postsecondary education

In policy: The caseworker will discuss with the youth his or her plan to prepare for adulthood. The caseworker will engage the youth in the case-planning process to ensure necessary supports and services are made available, including plans for postsecondary education and training or other needs related to workforce readiness and career planning.

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: Rev. Stat. § 15-1809.01

A tuition waiver scholarship may be awarded to any person who is a resident of Arizona and to whom the following apply:

- The person is currently in foster care and is at least age 14.
- The person was in foster care when the person was at least age 14.
- The person was adopted from foster care, and the adoption was finalized after the person reached age 14.
- The person is a U.S. citizen or a noncitizen who is lawfully present in this country.

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: Rev. Stat. § 15-1809.01

The Arizona Board of Regents shall provide a tuition waiver scholarship at any university under the jurisdiction of the board, and each community college district shall provide a tuition waiver scholarship at any community college in that community college district to any person who meets all the following conditions:

- Resides in this State
- Is any of the following:
 - Is currently in foster care and is at least age 14
 - Was in foster care when the person was at least age 14
 - Was adopted from foster care, and the adoption was finalized after the person reached age 14
- Is a U.S. citizen or a noncitizen who is lawfully present in this country

- Has total personal assets, not including scholarships or grants received by the person, that are worth less than \$10,000
- Is younger than age 23
- Is accepted into or enrolled in a degree, certificate, or other accredited program at a university under the jurisdiction of the Arizona Board of Regents or a community college under the jurisdiction of a community college district
- Has completed and submitted to the U.S. Department of Education a Free Application for Federal Student Aid before each year in which the person receives a tuition waiver scholarship pursuant to this section
- After the first academic year in which the person receives a tuition waiver scholarship, annually completes at least 30 hours of volunteer service during the previous academic year
- Remains in good standing with the policies established by the university or community college at which the person is enrolled

The person must demonstrate continuous progress toward a degree or certificate to remain eligible for a tuition waiver scholarship issued pursuant to this section.

A tuition waiver scholarship shall be reduced by the amount of any other Federal aid scholarships or public grants and any other public aid received by that person from or through the university or community college at which the person is enrolled, except that a tuition waiver scholarship may not be reduced by the amount of Federal grants received by the person from DCS under the Arizona Education and Training Voucher program.

If the tuition waiver scholarship is terminated before a tuition waiver scholarship recipient obtains an associate degree, a baccalaureate degree, or a certificate and before the recipient reaches age 23, that person shall continue to be awarded a tuition waiver scholarship until the person reaches age 23 or obtains a baccalaureate degree, an associate degree, or a certificate, whichever occurs first, if the person continues to meet the scholarship criteria prescribed by this section.

For the purposes of this section, 'tuition' means tuition and mandatory fees charged by the university or community college.

ARKANSAS

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

Citation: Admin. Code 016 15 CARR 011, Pol. VIII-A

Each youth in the custody of the Department of Human Services (DHS) who is age 14 or older is eligible for services provided by the John H. Chafee Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood program (Chafee program). All Chafee program services are voluntary. Services provided focus primarily on education and training and are intended to keep youth in school while they obtain life skills and participate in other life preparation activities and plans to promote a successful transition to adulthood.

Planning for Postsecondary Education

Citation: Ann. Code § 9-28-114

A child in foster care who is approaching the age of majority shall be provided the opportunity to be actively engaged in the planning of his or her future. DHS shall assist the juvenile with applying for admission to a college or university, to a vocational training program, or to another educational institution and in obtaining financial aid, when appropriate.

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: Admin. Code 016 15 CARR 011, Pol. VIII-A

The services described in this policy are provided to youth in foster care who are age 14 or older.

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: Admin. Code 016 15 CARR 011, Pol. VIII-A

The Chafee program also provides support for youth whose adoption or guardianship is finalized at age 16 or after. Such youth are eligible for the Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program and may attend youth development activities and life skills classes.

CALIFORNIA

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

Citation: Wel. & Inst. Code § 10609.4; Child Welf. Serv. Man. § 31-525

The purpose of the independent-living program may include, but is not limited to, enabling participants to seek a high school diploma or its equivalent or to take part in appropriate vocational training and providing job readiness training and placement services, or building work experience and marketable skills, or both.

In policy: Core services shall be provided to youth in foster care based on identified individual needs and goals, as documented in the transitional independent-living plan, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Education, including skills development, assistance and referrals to obtain literacy skills, and a high school diploma/general educational development high school equivalency certification
- Career development, including assistance and referral to obtain career exploration, work readiness and responsibility skills, employment development, employment experience, vocational training, apprenticeship opportunities, and job placement and retention

Planning for Postsecondary Education

Citation: Educ. Code §§ 79220; 89341(b); 89342; 89345; 89346(b)

The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office may enter into agreements with up to 20 community college districts to provide additional funds for services in support of postsecondary education for youth in foster care. This program shall be known as the Cooperating Agencies Foster Youth Educational Support (CAFYES) program and shall expand the number of students participating in the CAFYES program and shall not displace other students. In addition to the delivery of Student Success and Support Program services, as defined in § 78212, services shall include, when appropriate, but not necessarily be limited to, the following:

- Outreach and recruitment
- Consultation and eligibility verification
- Consultation and referrals for students deemed ineligible
- Service coordination
- Counseling
- Book and supply grants
- Tutoring
- Independent living and financial literacy skills support
- Frequent in-person contact

- Career guidance
- Transfer counseling
- Child care and transportation assistance
- Referrals to health services, mental health services, housing assistance, and other related services

The Trustees of the California State University and the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges shall expand the access and retention programs of the university and the community colleges to include the following:

- Outreach services to youth in foster care to encourage their enrollment in a State university or a community college
- Technical assistance to youth in foster care to assist those prospective students in completing admission applications and financial aid applications

The trustees and board shall perform the following services to assist youth in foster care:

- Review housing issues for those youth in foster care living in college dormitories to ensure basic housing during the regular academic school year, including vacations and holidays other than summer break
- Provide technical assistance and advice to campuses on ways in which to improve the delivery of services to youth in foster care

The State University Educational Opportunity Program and California Community College Extended Opportunity Programs and Services shall ensure that identified youth in foster care are informed of services, including mentoring, provided by these programs.

Each campus of the California Community Colleges shall do all of the following upon admission of a youth in foster care, and each campus of the California State University shall do all of the following upon determination, through receipt of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or through another means, that a student enrolled at, or applying to, that campus is a current or former youth in foster care and is eligible for financial aid:

- Notify that student about appropriate campus support programs
- Notify that student of his or her eligibility for financial aid
- Provide that student with instructions for accessing the benefits for which he or she has qualified

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: Educ. Code §§ 66025.3; 69435.3; 69433.6(e); 79222

A campus of the University of California or the California State University shall not charge any mandatory systemwide tuition or fees to a current or former youth in foster care if he or she meets all the following conditions:

- Is age 25 or younger
- Has been in foster care for at least 12 consecutive months after reaching age 10
- Meets any of the following conditions:
 - Is under a current foster care placement order by the juvenile court
 - Was under a foster care placement order by the juvenile court upon reaching age 18
 - Was adopted or entered guardianship from foster care
- Completes and submits the FAFSA
- Maintains a minimum grade-point average and meets other conditions necessary for the student to be in good standing at the public postsecondary educational institution in which he or she attends, as determined by the appropriate public postsecondary segment

- Meets the financial need requirements established for Cal Grant A awards under § 69430, et seq.

Any California resident is entitled to receive a Cal Grant B award, and the commission shall allocate that award if all the following criteria are met:

- The student has submitted a complete financial aid application, submitted or postmarked pursuant to the following dates:
 - No later than March 2 of the academic year immediately prior to the year for which funds would be applied, if the student is a youth currently or formerly in foster care, is attending a qualifying institution that offers baccalaureate degrees, and has not yet reached age 26 as of July 1 of the initial award year
 - No later than September 2 of the academic year for which funds would be applied, if the student is a youth currently or formerly in foster care, is attending a California community college, and has not yet reached age 26 as of July 1 of the initial award year
- The student demonstrates financial need pursuant to § 69433.
- The student attains a high school grade-point average of at least 2.0 on a four-point scale.
- The student's household has an income and asset level that does not exceed the level for Cal Grant B recipients, as set forth in § 69432.7.
- The student is pursuing an undergraduate academic program of no less than 1 academic year that is offered by a qualifying institution.
- The student is enrolled at least part time.
- The student meets the general Cal Grant eligibility requirements set forth in Article 1 (commencing with § 69430).
- The student graduated from high school or its equivalent during or after the 2000-01 academic year.

For a youth currently or formerly in foster care, Cal Grant B awards may be renewed for a total of the equivalent of 8 years of full-time attendance in an undergraduate program, provided that minimum financial need, as defined in § 69432.9(b)(3), continues to exist.

A student participant in the CAFYES program shall meet both of the following requirements:

- Be a current or former youth in foster care in California whose dependency was established or continued by the court on or after the youth's 16th birthday.
- Be no older than age 25 at the commencement of any academic year in which he or she participates in the program

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: Educ. Code §§ 66025.3; 69435; 69519

Notwithstanding § 76300, a campus of the University of California or the California State University shall not charge any mandatory systemwide tuition or fees, including enrollment fees, registration fees, differential fees, or incidental fees, to youth currently or formerly in foster care who meet the conditions described above.

A student shall not have his or her mandatory systemwide tuition or fees waived pursuant to this subdivision in excess of the equivalent of attendance in a 4-year undergraduate program. The amount of a student's tuition or fee waiver shall be reduced by any State or Federal financial aid, including scholarships or grants, received by the student for the academic year or semester, or the equivalent, in which the student receives the tuition or fee waiver.

A person who is eligible for a waiver of tuition or fees under this section may receive a waiver for each academic year during which he or she applies for that waiver, but an eligible person may not receive a waiver of tuition or fees for a prior academic year.

The waiver of tuition or fees under this section shall apply only to a person who is determined to be a resident of California.

The provisions of this section shall not apply to the University of California, except to the extent that the Regents of the University of California, by appropriate resolution, make a provision applicable.

A Cal Grant B award shall be used only for tuition, student fees, and access costs in a for-credit instructional program that is no less than 1 academic year in length.

The Student Aid Commission or a qualifying institution shall award access grants in a student's first academic year. In subsequent years, the award shall include an additional amount to pay tuition or fees, or both, to attend college at a public or private 4-year college or university or other qualifying institution for all Cal Grant B awards, pursuant to § 66021.2(2)(b). In no event shall the total award in any year exceed the applicant's calculated financial need.

An award for access costs under this article shall be in an annual amount not to exceed \$1,551. Access costs include living expenses and expenses for transportation, supplies, technology, and books.

The Student Aid Commission, through an interagency agreement with the State Department of Social Services, currently operates a federally funded scholarship program, known as the Chafee Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program, that provides grant aid to help youth currently and formerly in foster care in California access postsecondary education. Funds provided through an appropriation by the legislature shall be supplemental to funds provided by the Federal Government and are designated to ensure program availability in the absence of and before the annual receipt of Federal funds for this purpose. The department shall opt in, as necessary, to expand program age eligibility of youth formerly in foster care up to age 26, pursuant to Federal program guidelines. The department shall pursue and seek possible Chafee ETV program Federal matching dollars.

Funds provided for this program shall be used to assist students who are currently and formerly in foster care for career and technical training or traditional college courses.

COLORADO

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

Citation: Code of Regs. 12 CCR 2509-4, § 7.305.2

The youth, county department caseworker, provider(s), and other representatives of the youth, as appropriate, shall jointly develop a detailed, formal emancipation transition plan a minimum of 90 business days prior to the projected emancipation date of the youth. The plan shall include, but not be limited to, specific options for education, work force supports, and employment services.

Planning for Postsecondary Education

This issue is not addressed in the statutes and regulations reviewed.

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: Code of Regs. 12 CCR 2509-4, §§ 7.305.41; 7.305.42

The eligible population for the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) includes the following:

- Youth ages 14 to 21 currently in out-of-home care and in out-of-home care for a minimum of 6 months if younger than age 17; consecutive months are not required
- Youth ages 18 to 21 who were in out-of-home care on or after their 18th birthday
- Youth ages 16 to 21 who meet requirements for relative guardianship assistance and youth age 16 to 21 who meet requirements for adoption assistance or who met such requirements on or after their 16th birthday

The county department shall consider the following factors in the prioritization of Chafee services on an individual basis:

- Risk or history of human trafficking
- Risk or history of homelessness
- Whether the youth has emancipated from child welfare placement or exited the Division of Youth Services after reaching age 18, or is expected to do so
- Previous participation in Chafee services or transfer of services from another county or State
- Enrollment and progress in educational programs, internships, or apprenticeships
- Enrollment and progress in workforce innovation and opportunity act programs or workforce development activities
- Connection to permanent, supportive adults and personal support systems

To be eligible for CFCIP services, the youth must meet the following requirements:

- Meet target group eligibility requirements, in a nonsecure setting, with the Division of Youth Services or meet requirements for ongoing Chafee services in the State where the youth emancipated, was adopted, or entered relative guardianship, if other than Colorado
- Be at risk of aging out of foster care, including youth who meet the following criteria:
 - Are age 14 to 21, currently in out-of-home care, and in out-of-home care for a minimum of 6 months if under age 17; consecutive months are not required
 - Are age 16 to 21 and meet requirements for relative guardianship assistance and entered relative guardianship on or after age 16
 - Are age 16 to 21 and meet requirements for adoption assistance and entered adoption assistance on or after age 16
 - Are 18 to 21 and were in out-of-home care on or after their 18th birthday
- Have a current family services plan or, for youth who entered into a relative guardianship or adoption assistance agreement at age 16 or older, the following in lieu of a family services plan:
 - The relative guardianship or adoption assistance agreement
 - The transition plan developed on or prior to the youth's 18th birthday
- Participate on a voluntary basis
- Follow the plan developed with the youth and the county department regarding participation in the CFCIP

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: Rev. Stat. § 26-5-113(5); Code of Regs. 12 CCR 2509-4, § 7.305.43

State institutions of higher education and community colleges shall work with the county departments to explore ways to support youth formerly in foster care both financially and through other supportive services. This support includes reviewing the ability to provide tuition assistance and other fee waivers to youth formerly in foster care.

In regulation: The Education and Training Voucher program provides federally funded vouchers for postsecondary training and education to youth eligible for Chafee services in § 7.305.42.

CONNECTICUT

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

Citation: Pol. Man. # 28-1

Youth who are committed, abused, neglected, uncared for, or for whom the commissioner is the statutory parent shall be in full-time attendance in a secondary school (high school) program, adult high school credit diploma program, or general educational development (GED) program. Adult high school or GED programs may be approved by the commissioner in lieu of secondary school on a case-by-case basis. Youth shall be required to complete the adult high school or GED program by age 21.

All youth shall be encouraged to remain in and graduate from secondary school. If it is in the best interests of the youth to pursue alternative means to secondary education completion, the adolescent specialist shall seek prior approval from the commissioner. The adolescent specialist shall prepare a memorandum for the commissioner to review that shall include the following documents:

- School transcripts
- Test scores
- GED practice and test scores
- Anticipated postsecondary education or employment plan
- Anticipated time frame for GED completion

Youth who have been approved to attend a GED program shall be required to accept additional support services, including tutoring, in order to complete the program within 6 months. These youth shall be encouraged also to enroll in a postsecondary education program or employment training.

Planning for Postsecondary Education

Citation: Pol. Man. # 28-1

For any youth interested in pursuing postsecondary education, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) adolescent specialist shall submit a postsecondary education (PSE) plan to a PSE consultant. Plans shall contain the following materials and be submitted no later than July 15th prior to the youth's senior year of high school:

- Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) results, if applicable
- Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) Science score
- Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and American College Test (ACT) scores
- Official high school transcript
- For youth approved for the GED, all relevant testing and available scores
- Most recent individualized education plan (IEP) or 504 plan, if applicable
- Most recent psychological or achievement evaluation conducted
- A youth-prepared summary with a proposed education plan that identifies the following:
 - Type of program
 - Field of study or major
 - Career goal
 - Length of program and projected completion (e.g., certificate program, 18 months; computer programming, associate degree, 2 years; criminal justice, bachelor's degree, 4 years)

- List of schools to which the youth intends to apply or has applied
- An approved preliminary PSE plan

For any youth interested in pursuing postsecondary vocational training, the adolescent specialist shall submit a PSE plan to a PSE specialist. Plans shall contain the following materials and be submitted no later than July 15th prior to the youth's senior year of high school:

- SBA results, if applicable
- CAPT Science score
- SAT or ACT scores
- Official high school transcript
- For youth approved for the GED, all relevant testing and available scores
- Most recent IEP or 504 plan, if applicable
- Most recent psychological or achievement evaluation conducted
- Proposed employment training plan that identifies the type of employment training program, including the length of the program and the area being pursued
- A list of employment training programs to which the youth intends to apply or has applied

For any youth interested in pursuing the Community Housing Employment Enrichment Resources (CHEER) program, the DCF adolescent specialist shall submit a PSE plan to PSE staff. PSE staff shall forward the plan to the CHEER coordinator. Plans must contain the following materials and be submitted no later than July 15th prior to the youth's senior year of high school:

- SAT and ACT scores
- Official high school transcript
- For youth approved for the GED, all relevant testing and available scores
- Most recent 504 plan, if applicable
- A youth-prepared summary with a proposed education plan that identifies the following:
 - Trade of interest
 - Career goal
 - Length of program and projected completion
- List of employment training programs to which the youth intends to apply or has applied
- An approved preliminary PSE plan

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: Pol. Man. # 28-1

DCF may offer funding for a PSE program to youth who meet the following criteria:

- Are committed to DCF as abused, neglected, or uncared for as of the youth's 18th birthday
- Have obtained a high school diploma or its equivalent
- Demonstrate an interest and ability to pursue an accredited PSE program

Funding shall be based on available DCF budget appropriations. To be eligible for assistance for PSE funding, the youth shall meet the following requirements:

- Be adjudicated abused, neglected, or uncared for and committed to DCF by the juvenile court at the time the child turns age 18
- Have obtained a high school diploma or received approval for and completed a GED

- Have demonstrated adequate social skills and appropriate behavior, as assessed by the adolescent specialist and the case history
- Have signed a DCF-779, 'Notice at Age of Majority and Agreement for Services Post Majority,' prior to the youth's 18th birthday in order to continue receiving services beyond age 18
- Maintained compliance with DCF through an individual postmajority contract
- Have done either of the following:
 - Began in a full-time PSE program immediately after receiving a high school diploma or GED and have an approved PSE plan
 - Successfully completed CHEER before the youth's 21st birthday and have an approved PSE plan

In order to qualify for PSE funding from DCF, a youth shall do the following:

- Have a PSE plan that has been reviewed and approved by a PSE consultant
- Demonstrate the ability and strong desire to pursue PSE
- If age 18 or over, voluntarily agree to continue to receive services from DCF and understand that most services and funding from DCF shall terminate upon reaching age 21, and all funding shall terminate at age 23 or earlier if the conditions of PSE are not met
- Complete the U.S. Department of Education's Free Application for Federal Youth Aid (FAFSA) no later than 90 days prior to the expected award of a high school diploma or GED and annually thereafter
- Complete, if required by the PSE program, the institution-specific financial aid application
- Apply or compete for appropriate grants and scholarships to offset costs

DCF shall not provide financial assistance unless such efforts by the youth are reflected in the total funding request. A youth who requests PSE funding shall provide the following documentation to his or her adolescent specialist:

- Proof of enrollment or registration at an accredited institution
- The FAFSA submission receipt
- Any institution-specific application(s) for financial aid
- A high school transcript
- A copy of the financial aid award letter or student award report
- Copies of all grant and scholarship applications and corresponding award determination letters

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: Pol. Man. # 28-1

DCF funding for the costs of attendance in a PSE program is limited to an amount not to exceed the maximum cost of attendance at a Connecticut State University. Youth who choose to attend programs or colleges that exceed the DCF funding limit shall be solely responsible for any and all additional funding costs.

The maximum funding for cost of attendance in a PSE program shall be based upon Connecticut State University's 'Financial Aid Cost of Attendance Budget' for an undergraduate, in-State, full-time, on-campus youth for the current State fiscal year.

Costs of attendance include the following:

- Tuition and fees
- Room and board (on campus) and/or rent and living stipend (off campus)
- Books, equipment, supplies, and materials required of all youth in the same course of study

Youth who have exceeded the funding amount may, within available appropriations, be eligible for the following with the office director's approval:

- A computer
- Accommodations related to a youth's disability that are not funded by another source
- Two roundtrip transportation expenses to be used to visit caregivers during educational breaks if attending an out-of-State institution

DELAWARE

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

Citation: DFS User Man. #6, E-6

Youth in out-of-home care under the supervision of the Division of Family Services (DFS) shall participate in educational and/or vocational training, such as traditional high school, diploma program, or general educational development (GED) program.

Planning for Postsecondary Education

Citation: DFS User Man. #6, E-6

If applicable, postsecondary education and academic supports may be provided.

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: DFS User Man. #6, E-8, H-2

Youth formerly in foster care may be eligible to participate in the independent-living (IL) aftercare program if the youth meets the following requirements:

- The youth exited foster care after his or her 18th birthday but has not reached age 21.
- The youth accepts personal responsibility for achieving self-sufficiency.
- The youth has demonstrated an ability to manage money.
- The youth sustains employment if enrolled in an educational program as a part-time student.
- The youth needs continued help in transitioning to self-sufficiency.
- The youth can contribute to the cost of the IL aftercare program through either of the following:
 - Earned income from employment
 - Unearned income from scholarships, stipends, grants, work-study arrangements, supplemental security income, or any combination of these resources

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: DCYF User Man. #6, E-8, E-9

Youth who age out of foster care or meet other eligibility criteria for aftercare services shall have the opportunity to participate in the Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program to help them receive the education, training, and services necessary to obtain employment; funds shall not exceed \$5,000 per youth, per year, when available.

Applications for ETV funds shall be submitted to the designated contact for review and approval. Applications shall be completed by the IL provider, if IL services are contracted out, and by the DFS primary case manager if not.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

Citation: CFSA Educ. Serv. Pol., Proc. D, E, F, J

It is the policy of the Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) to ensure that all children in its care and/or custody have access to an educational program that is appropriate to the child's age and abilities and is designed to meet his or her unique needs and suitably prepare him or her for additional education, future employment, self-sufficiency, and independent living.

All in-home and out-of-home caseworkers shall ensure that all children and youth in foster care between ages 5 to 18 are enrolled in school or an educational program. A child who is receiving special education services is entitled to these services until age 21.

To the greatest extent possible, all caseworkers shall ensure that children maintain regular school attendance by communicating to birth and resource parents the importance of school attendance and the seriousness of educational neglect.

CFSA caseworkers are dedicated to comprehensive case planning, including provision of educational services for all children and youth served by the agency. Caseworkers will review educational performance for children on an ongoing basis to ensure maximized use of quality educational services and performance. One way the agency addresses educational performance is by means of an education/vocation assessment tool to obtain essential information on a child's educational needs and progress.

Tutoring may be provided for children or youth involved with CFSA who have academic needs or difficulties. Tutoring is intended to be a time-limited, goal-focused, objective-driven academic support service for school-aged children and youth in foster care.

Planning for Postsecondary Education

Citation: CFSA Educ. Serv. Pol., Proc. K, L, M

The Office of Youth Empowerment (OYE) staff will provide assistance to youth who are interested in pursuing enrollment in postsecondary education (i.e., college or university) or a vocational training program. The caseworker shall refer all youth age 15 and a half or older to the OYE to discuss individual transitional independent-living plans and to prepare and plan for postsecondary education or vocational training, which typically begins during the last quarter of the youth's junior year in high school.

Youth in out-of-home placements interested in attending a college or university shall enroll in the OYE's precollege services program. The precollege services program consists of a college preparation curriculum that includes, but is not limited to, the following topics:

- Various types of higher education options
- The college search process
- A review of college entrance requirements, admissions, and financial aid processes
- College-related life skills training, including budgeting, living with a roommate, time management, and alcohol/drug use on college campuses

Upon receiving the youth's registration, the OYE educational specialist shall send the youth a letter confirming placement in precollege services and advising the youth of group activities and other information, including the mandatory precollege services orientation meeting. The mandatory orientation meeting shall inform the youth of the complete schedule of program activities and associated deadlines, including those for standardized testing and financial assistance programs.

To the extent that funds are available, each youth shall participate in a group college tour or an individual college visit. If the youth is not able to participate, he/she will always have the option to meet with the educational specialist on an individual basis.

Individual OYE consultations shall be provided to youth, as needed. The subjects that may be addressed in individual consultation include the following:

- Review of financial award letters with youth, as well as the Student Aid Report (SAR) to ensure accuracy
- Freshman year course selection
- Understanding the college's credit system
- College correspondence

To the extent that funds are available, CFSA shall provide the following fee payments to a youth participating in precollege services:

- Up to \$1,000 per youth for a summer session program that is required by an institute of higher education as a condition for admission
- Up to \$200 per youth for a summer orientation program at the college the youth will be attending
- Application cost for up to three institutions of higher education, after the youth has sought application fee waivers

OYE also shall provide the following assistance to assess the youth's vocational options:

- Identifying different types of vocations appropriate to the youth's skills, talents, and interests
- Factors to consider in selecting a vocational school or institution, including geography, population, price, and length of curriculum
- Vocational school entrance requirements and admission process
- The financial aid process (including grants and scholarships)
- Applying for the Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program
- Visiting vocational schools (to the extent that funds are available, youth may participate in a group vocational school tour)

All youth shall receive an individual OYE consultation to address one or more of the following subjects:

- Reviewing financial award letters with the youth as well as the SAR to ensure accuracy
- Understanding the vocational school's credit system
- Vocational school correspondence

If there is an application cost to the vocational services program, CFSA will pay up to three institutions of higher education after the youth has sought application fee waivers.

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: CFSA Educ. Serv. Pol., Proc. L, M; CFSA Admin. Iss. # CFSA-06-9

Youth must fulfill the following eligibility requirements to receive precollege services:

- Be enrolled in OYE services
- Register for precollege services no later than August 31, unless recently committed
- Have demonstrated the desire to pursue postsecondary education
- Meet one of the following criteria:
 - Is enrolled in the last quarter of the junior year of high school
 - Is actively pursuing a general educational development (GED) diploma
 - Has earned a GED or high school diploma

In addition to the eligibility requirements listed above, the youth must provide the following information to the OYE prior to the August 31 deadline:

- Final grades for the junior year of high school or copy of the high school diploma or GED certificate, whichever is applicable
- If the youth is in high school, the senior year class schedule
- Standardized testing scores, if available
- An ETV application

In order to maintain participation in precollege services, a youth must fulfill the following criteria:

- Remain enrolled and participate in OYE, who supports the youth through this process and collaborates with the team (caseworker, caregiver, mentor, etc.) that is already in place
- Participate in the college preparation curriculum, including attending weekly group or individual sessions
- Attend standardized testing preparation classes, take the test, and provide test scores upon receipt
- Identify colleges to which to apply
- Complete college applications and supporting documents and submit completed applications to selected institutions

OYE staff shall assist with enrollment in vocational training when a youth fulfills the following criteria:

- Enrolls and actively participates in OYE services
- Demonstrates interest in pursuing vocational education
- Meets one of the following criteria:
 - Is age 18 or older
 - Is pursuing a GED or is a senior in high school
 - Has a GED or high school diploma
 - Participates in the Department of Employment Services job readiness program, including attending weekly group or individual sessions

The ETV program is available to the following youth:

- For youth ages 18 to 21, the following criteria applies:
 - Has U.S. citizenship or legal residency
 - Was placed in out-of-home care at age 15 or older or adopted after age 16
 - Has a high school diploma or equivalent or a GED
 - Enrolled in a postsecondary school or training program as a full-time or part-time student
 - Has submitted an application to the postsecondary school or training program for financial aid

- Initiated the postsecondary education or training before reaching age 21
- Has maintained satisfactory academic progress (i.e., at least a cumulative grade-point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale) or academic standing consistent with the institution's graduation requirements for the Federal student financial aid program
- Youth aged 21 to 23 must fulfill both of the following eligibility criteria:
 - Meet all eligibility requirements for youth ages 18 to 21 (above)
 - Be participating in the voucher program on the date they reach age 21 in order to be eligible to receive assistance until reaching the age of 23 years old, as long as they are enrolled in a postsecondary education or training program and are making satisfactory progress toward completion of that program
- Adopted youth must be adopted from the District of Columbia's foster care system after age 16 and meet the same eligibility requirements for youth in foster care who would have been otherwise eligible for services under the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP).

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: CFSA Admin. Iss. # CFSA-06-9

Through the CFCIP, the Federal Government provides funds to States, including the District of Columbia, to assist youth in receiving postsecondary education and training. The purpose of the ETV program is to help youth exiting out of foster care make the transition to self-sufficiency and receive the education, training, and services necessary to obtain employment.

The ETV program is the only program through which CFSA will provide funds for postsecondary education for youth currently or formerly in foster care.

ETVs can be applied toward the cost of attendance at an institution of higher education, including, but not limited to, colleges, universities, community colleges, and training institutions. An ETV voucher cannot exceed the total cost of attendance at a postsecondary school or program. It may be received more than once, but the youth must reapply each academic year. ETVs will be distributed in order of application on a first-come, first-served basis, until the ETV funds are exhausted.

The ETV program provides an eligible youth with financial assistance in the form of a voucher for up to \$5,000 per academic year. ETV funds are provided only after all other forms of financial aid have been utilized. The total amount provided may not exceed the cost of attendance at the youth's institution of higher education. Youth are responsible for all other expenses after the \$5,000 cap.

ETVs can be used for the cost of attendance, including tuition, fees, books, room and board, supplies, transportation costs, computers, dependent allowance, disability allowance, cooperative education allowance, and loan fees.

FLORIDA

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

Citation: Pol. & Proc. Man., CFOP 170-17

Transitional services may include academic support. These services are designed to help a youth complete high school or obtain a general educational development (GED) diploma. Such services include the following:

- Academic counseling
- Preparation for a GED, including assistance for or studying for the GED exam

- Tutoring, help with homework, and study skills training
- Literacy training
- Help accessing educational resources

Academic support does not include a youth's general attendance in school.

Planning for Postsecondary Education

Citation: Pol. & Proc. Man., CFOP 170-17; Ann. Stat. § 409.1452

Transitional services may include postsecondary educational support that is provided through services designed to help a youth enter or complete a postsecondary education program and may include the following:

- Classes for test preparation, such as the Scholastic Aptitude Test
- Counseling about college
- Information about financial aid and scholarships
- Help completing college or loan applications
- Tutoring while in college

In statute: Effective July 1, 2013, the Department of Children and Families shall work in collaboration with the Board of Governors, the Florida College System, and the Department of Education to help address the need for a comprehensive support structure in the academic arena to assist children and young adults who have been or continue to remain in the foster care system in making the transition from a structured care system into an independent living setting. The State University System of Florida and the Florida College System shall provide postsecondary educational campus coaching positions that will be integrated into Florida College System institutions' and university institutions' general support services structure to provide children and youth adults currently or formerly in foster care with dedicated, on-campus support.

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: Ann. Stat. § 409.1451

A young adult is eligible for postsecondary education services and support under the Road-to-Independence program if he or she meets the following requirements:

- Was living in licensed care on his or her 18th birthday or is currently living in licensed care; or was at least 16 years of age and was adopted from foster care or placed with a court-approved dependency guardian after spending at least 6 months in licensed care within the 12 months immediately preceding such placement or adoption
- Spent at least 6 months in licensed care before reaching his or her 18th birthday
- Earned a standard high school diploma
- Has been admitted for enrollment as a full-time student or its equivalent in an eligible postsecondary educational institution
- Has reached age 18 years of age but is not yet age 23
- Has applied, with assistance from the young adult's caregiver and the community-based lead agency, for any other grants and scholarships for which he or she may qualify
- Submitted a Free Application for Federal Student Aid, which is complete and error free
- Signed an agreement to allow the department and the community-based care lead agency access to school records

In order to be eligible for a renewal award for the subsequent year, the young adult must do the following:

- Be enrolled for or have completed the number of hours, or the equivalent, to be considered a full-time student

- Maintain standards of academic progress, as defined by the education institution, except that if the young adult's progress is insufficient to renew the award at any time during the eligibility period, the young adult may continue to be enrolled for additional terms while attempting to restore eligibility as long as progress towards the required level is maintained

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: Ann. Stat. §§ 1009.25; 409.1451

The following students are exempt from the payment of tuition and fees, including lab fees, at a school district that provides workforce education programs, Florida College System institution, or State university:

- A student who is or was in the custody of the Department of Children and Families at the time he or she reached age 18 or who, after spending at least 6 months in the custody of the department after reaching age 16, was placed in a guardianship by the court. Such exemption includes fees associated with enrollment in applied academics for adult education instruction. The exemption remains valid until the student reaches age 28.
- A student who is or was at the time he or she reached age 18 in the custody of a relative or nonrelative or who was adopted from the department after May 5, 1997. Such exemption includes fees associated with enrollment in applied academics for adult education instruction. The exemption remains valid until the student reaches age 28.

Each Florida College System institution is authorized to grant student fee exemptions from all fees adopted by the State Board of Education and the Florida College System institution board of trustees for up to 54 full-time-equivalent students or 1 percent of the institution's total full-time-equivalent enrollment, whichever is greater, at each institution.

The amount of the financial assistance under the Road-to-Independence program shall be as follows:

- For a young adult who does not remain in foster care and is attending a postsecondary school, the amount is \$1,256 monthly.
- For a young adult who remains in foster care, is attending a postsecondary school, and continues to reside in a licensed foster home, the amount is the established room and board rate for foster parents.
- For a young adult who remains in foster care, but temporarily resides away from a licensed foster home for purposes of attending a postsecondary school, the amount is \$1,256 monthly.
- For a young adult who remains in foster care, is attending a postsecondary school, and continues to reside in a licensed group home, the amount is negotiated between the community-based care lead agency and the licensed group-home provider.
- For a young adult who remains in foster care, but temporarily resides away from a licensed group home for purposes of attending a postsecondary school, the amount is \$1,256 monthly. This takes the place of a negotiated room and board rate.

A young adult is eligible to receive financial assistance during the months when he or she is enrolled in a postsecondary educational institution. Payment of financial assistance shall be made as follows:

- For a young adult who has chosen not to remain in foster care and is attending a postsecondary school, payment shall be made to the community-based care lead agency in order to secure housing and utilities, with the balance being paid directly to the young adult until such time the lead agency and the young adult determine that the young adult can successfully manage the full amount of the assistance.
- For a young adult who has remained in foster care and who is attending postsecondary school, payment shall be made directly to the foster parent or group home provider.

Financial awards to young adults receiving services may be disregarded for purposes of determining the eligibility for, or the amount of, any other Federal or federally supported assistance for which the department is required to determine eligibility for the program.

GEORGIA

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

Citation: Child Welf. Pol. Man. # 13.0

Independent Living Program (ILP) services assist students in obtaining a high school diploma. Secondary education program services provide assistance with the following:

- Tutoring
- College applications
- Graduation fees
- Drivers education
- American College Tests/Scholastic Aptitude Tests

Planning for Postsecondary Education

Citation: Child Welf. Pol. Man. # 13.0

The ILP helps youth who are likely to remain in foster care until age 18 prepare for and enter postsecondary training and education institutions. Examples of activities that assist students to prepare for college include the following:

- College tours and preparatory workshops
- Financial resources and assistance
- Postsecondary education assistance

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: Ann. Code § 20-3-660

Tuition, ancillary student fees, and the cost-of-living expenses for any undergraduate program of any Georgia public postsecondary institution, including all 4-year and 2-year colleges and universities and institutions of the Georgia Community and Technical College System, shall be paid for a youth in Georgia's foster care system or a youth who has been adopted who is a full-time or part-time student, if the student meets all entrance requirements and maintains academic eligibility while enrolled at the postsecondary institution and if any of the following apply:

- The student's family receives State-funded adoption assistance under § 49-5-8.
- The student is currently committed to the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) within the Department of Human Services and placed in a family foster home or placed in accordance with § 15-11-212 (a)(2)(C).
- The student is in an ILP and the placement is funded by DFCS.
- The student is a child who was in the permanent legal custody of and placed for adoption by the DFCS following the child's 14th birthday.

The student shall be eligible and remain eligible for the grant as long as the following are true:

- The student applies for entrance to the institution within 3 years of receipt of his or her high school diploma or general educational development (GED) diploma.
- The student maintains satisfactory academic progress, as defined by the institution attended.
- The student has not reached age 26.

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: Ann. Code § 20-3-660; Child Welf. Pol. Man. # 13.0

From funds appropriated by the general assembly for such purpose, there is created a program of grants for the payment of postsecondary tuition, ancillary fees, and living expenses for children in Georgia's foster care system and children who have been adopted.

A student who meets the eligibility criteria of this section and lives outside the State at the time of application to a Georgia postsecondary institution may apply for the grant as though he or she were still a resident of this State.

The student shall do the following:

- Obtain the application for the grant through DFCS
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid to determine the level of need and eligibility for State and Federal financial aid programs

If the student's financial need for total cost of attendance exceeds the available funding from all sources, except loans and the work-study program, the foster care tuition grant shall be used to cover the excess assessed need for cost of attendance at the postsecondary institution.

Cost-of-living expenses and necessary fees shall be determined for this program by the institution in which the student enrolls. Cost of living may include, but is not limited to, room, board, books, fees, supplies, transportation fees, and a basic health-care policy endorsed by the institution in which the student is enrolled.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to do the following:

- Guarantee acceptance of or entrance into any postsecondary institution for a child in foster care or child who has been adopted
- Limit the participation of a student in foster care or a student that has been adopted in any other program of financial assistance for postsecondary education
- Require any postsecondary institution to waive costs or fees relating to tuition, fees, room, and board
- Restrict any postsecondary institution or DFCS from accessing other sources of financial assistance, except loans, that may be available to a student in foster care or a student that has been adopted from foster care
- Prevent the student from maintaining the grant if transferring to another public postsecondary institution in this State, provided that the student meets all the requirements of the transferring and receiving institutions

In policy: The ILP funds postsecondary financial support services through the Federal Education and Training Vouchers program as well as State ILP college funding. Services that may be funded through these programs include application fees, registration fees, tuition, room and board, course books and supplies, tutoring, testing, and stipends for hygiene and personal maintenance.

GUAM

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

This issue is not addressed in the statutes and regulations reviewed.

Planning for Postsecondary Education

This issue is not addressed in the statutes and regulations reviewed.

Eligibility Requirements

This issue is not addressed in the statutes and regulations reviewed.

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

This issue is not addressed in the statutes and regulations reviewed.

HAWAII

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

This issue is not addressed in the statutes and regulations reviewed.

Planning for Postsecondary Education

This issue is not addressed in the statutes and regulations reviewed.

Eligibility Requirements

This issue is not addressed in the statutes and regulations reviewed.

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

This issue is not addressed in the statutes and regulations reviewed.

IDAHO

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

Citation: Child Welf. Std. for Working With Older Youth

The [Child Welfare Standard for Working With Older Youth](#) provides for an independent living (IL) plan that includes the following supports to ensure that the youth completes his or her secondary education program:

- Structure and coordinate educational advocacy
- Provide educational case management
- Involve parents and caregivers along with youth
- Make basic skills acquisition a priority
- Recognize the impact of trauma on a youth's ability to develop and learn
- Coordinate special education services
- Encourage cocurricular or extracurricular engagement
- Ensure collection and retrieval of all educational records for the youth

Planning for Postsecondary Education

Citation: Child Welf. Std. for Working With Older Youth

The IL plan also will provide opportunities for career development and vocational and job training and arrange for postsecondary planning and supports.

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: Child Welf. Std. for Working With Older Youth

To be eligible for IL services in Idaho, youth must meet the following criteria:

- A youth must be or have been the responsibility of the State or Indian Tribe through a court order.
- Only youth between ages 14 and 21 are eligible for services and use of funds through the IL program.
- A youth must have resided in an eligible placement setting that includes foster care, group care, an Indian boarding school, or similar foster care placement and excludes extended home visits, including extended stays with a noncustodial parent, protective supervision, in-patient hospital stays, detention facilities, forestry camps, or other settings primarily designed for services to delinquent youth.
- A youth must have resided in an eligible foster care setting for 90 cumulative days after his or her 14th birthday.

If a youth is found eligible for IL services and subsequently reaches legal permanency status of adoption or guardianship, the youth remains eligible for IL services until age 21.

IL-eligible youth with legal permanency status of adoption or guardianship on/or after their 16th birthday are eligible for Education and Training Vouchers (ETVs).

ETVs are available to youth who are eligible for services under Idaho's IL program; however, for purposes of the voucher program, in cases where the youth has been adopted after reaching IL eligibility, ETVs are restricted to youth who have a legal permanency status of adoption or guardianship on or after their 16th birthday.

Youth participating in the ETV program on their 21st birthday remain eligible until age 23 as long as they remain enrolled in a full- or part-time postsecondary education or training program and are making satisfactory progress in completing their course of study or training. Satisfactory progress for ETV purposes is defined as maintaining a grade-point average of at least 2.0.

ETV program application requirements include the following:

- An application must be completed by the youth and endorsed by his or her caseworker.
- An application must include the written IL service plan for achieving educational goals, including documentation of collaboration with service providers and the department's role in supporting the youth.
- An application must include a signed release-of-information form for the sharing of information between the department, institutions of higher or technical education, and service providers.
- An application must be signed by the youth, the youth's case manager, the caseworker's supervisor, and the Child and Family Services program manager.

Due to the nature of the ETV program and the need to monitor the youth's educational progress, case managers must provide support to youth involved in the ETV program by maintaining monthly face-to-face, email, or telephone contact with the youth. The case manager must request semester or quarter grades to monitor the youth's academic progress.

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: Child Welf. Std. for Working With Older Youth

The ETV program assists youth who have a high school diploma or general educational development diploma to attend an institution of higher education, as defined by the Higher Education Act.

Funding is available to eligible youth to assist with the cost of attendance, as defined by the educational institution, up to \$5,000 per academic year. Youth who were eligible for services under Idaho's current Chafee program are eligible for ETVs, except for youth who were adopted or had a completed guardianship before age 16.

Cost of attendance may include tuition and fees, room and board, child care, rental or purchase of required equipment, allowance for books, transportation, and other identified service needs to support the youth's education goals.

ILLINOIS

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

This issue is not addressed in the statutes and regulations reviewed.

Planning for Postsecondary Education

This issue is not addressed in the statutes and regulations reviewed.

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: Comp. Stat. Ch. 20, § 505/8

Youth shall receive a tuition and fee waiver to assist them in attending and completing their postsecondary education at any community college, university, or college maintained by the State of Illinois if they are youth for whom the Department of Child and Family Services has court-ordered legal responsibility, youth who aged out of care at age 18 or older, or youth formerly under care who have been adopted and were the subject of an adoption assistance agreement or who have been placed in private guardianship and were the subject of a subsidized guardianship agreement.

To receive a tuition waiver, an applicant must meet the following requirements:

- Have earned a high school diploma from an accredited institution or a high school equivalency certificate or have met the State criteria for high school graduation before the start of the school year for which the applicant is applying for the waiver
- Enroll in a qualifying postsecondary education program before the applicant reaches age 26
- Apply for Federal and State grant assistance by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid

Tuition and fee waivers shall be available to a student for at least the first 5 years the student is enrolled in a community college, university, or college maintained by the State of Illinois as long as the student makes satisfactory progress toward completing his or her degree. The age requirement and 5-year cap on tuition and fee waivers shall be waived and eligibility for tuition and fee waivers shall be extended for any applicant or student who the department determines was unable to enroll in a qualifying postsecondary school or complete an academic term because the applicant or student: (i) was called into active duty with the U.S. Armed Forces; (ii) was deployed for service in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps; or (iii) volunteered in the Peace Corps or the AmeriCorps.

To receive a stipend for an apprenticeship, an applicant must meet the following requirements:

- Be enrolled in an apprenticeship training program approved or recognized by the Illinois Department of Employment Security or an apprenticeship program approved by the U.S. Department of Labor
- Not be a recipient of a scholarship or fee waiver for a postsecondary education program
- Be younger than age 26 before enrolling in a qualified apprenticeship program

Apprenticeship stipends shall be available to an eligible youth for a maximum of 5 years after the youth enrolls in a qualifying apprenticeship program as long as the youth makes satisfactory progress toward completing his or her apprenticeship. The age requirement and 5-year cap on the apprenticeship stipend shall be extended for any applicant who the department determines was unable to enroll in a qualifying apprenticeship program because the applicant: (i) was called into active duty with the U.S. Armed Forces; (ii) was deployed for service in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps; or (iii) volunteered in the Peace Corps or the AmeriCorps.

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: Comp. Stat. Ch. 20, § 505/8

Each year the department shall select a minimum of 53 students (at least 4 of whom shall be children of veterans) to receive scholarships and fee waivers that will enable them to attend and complete their postsecondary education at a community college, university, or college.

The community college or public university that an applicant attends must waive any tuition and fee amounts that exceed the amounts paid to the applicant under the Federal Pell Grant program or the State's Monetary Award Program. The department may provide the student with a stipend to cover maintenance and school expenses, except tuition and fees, during the academic years to supplement the student's earnings or other resources as long as the student consistently maintains scholastic records that are acceptable to the student's school and to the department.

Subject to appropriation, the department shall provide eligible youth an apprenticeship stipend to cover those costs associated with entering and sustaining through completion of an apprenticeship, including, but not limited to, fees, tuition for classes, work clothes, rain gear, boots, and occupation-specific tools. The following youth may be eligible for the apprenticeship stipend provided under this subsection: youth for whom the department has court-ordered legal responsibility, youth who aged out of care at age 18 or older, or youth formerly under care who have been adopted and were the subject of an adoption assistance agreement or who have been placed in private guardianship and were the subject of a subsidized guardianship agreement.

INDIANA

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

Citation: Ann. Code §§ 12-12-6-1; 12-12-6-5

The Twenty-First Century Scholars Program is established to do the following:

- Reduce the number of students who withdraw from high school before graduation
- Increase the number of students who are prepared to enter the workforce upon graduation
- Increase the number of students entering postsecondary educational institutions in Indiana
- Encourage eligible students to attend postsecondary educational institutions in Indiana by reducing the financial burden on the eligible students and their families
- Decrease drug and alcohol abuse by encouraging higher educational pursuits
- Increase individual economic vitality
- Improve the overall quality of life for many Indiana residents

A student qualifies to participate in the program if the student meets the following criteria:

- Before or during grade 7 or 8, is placed by or with the consent of the Department of Child Services, by a court order, or by a child-placing agency in one of the following:
 - A foster family home
 - The home of a relative or other unlicensed caregiver
 - A child-caring institution
 - A group home
- Meets the following requirements:
 - Is a resident of Indiana
 - Is enrolled in grade 7 or 8 at a public school or a nonpublic school that is accredited either by the State board of education or by a national or regional accrediting agency
 - Is otherwise qualified under the rules of the commission to include students who are in grades other than grade 8 as eligible students
- Agrees in writing, together with the student's caseworker or legal guardian, that the student will do the following:
 - Graduate from a secondary school located in Indiana that meets the admission criteria of an eligible institution
 - Not illegally use controlled substances
 - Not commit a crime or an infraction described in chapter 9-30-5
 - Not commit any other crime or delinquent act
 - Timely apply, when the eligible student is a senior in high school, for the following:
 - For admission to an eligible postsecondary institution
 - For any Federal and State student financial assistance available to the eligible student to attend an eligible institution
 - Achieve a cumulative grade-point average upon graduation of at least 2.0, if the student graduates from high school before July 1, 2014, or at least 2.5, if the student graduates from high school after June 30, 2014, on a 4.0 grading scale (or its equivalent if another grading scale is used) for courses taken during grades 9, 10, 11, and 12
 - Complete an academic success program required under the rules adopted by the commission, if the student initially enrolls in high school after June 30, 2013

Planning for Postsecondary Education

Citation: Ann. Code §§ 21-12-6.5-1; 21-12-6.5-2; 21-12-6.5-3; 21-12-6-14

An individual may apply for the program under chapter 21-12-6 if he or she meets the following criteria:

- Is receiving foster care
- Is in grades 9 through 12
- Is a resident of Indiana at the time the individual applies

An individual may enroll in the program and is eligible for higher education benefits under chapter 21-12-3.

Determination of initial eligibility for higher education benefits authorized under this chapter is vested exclusively in the Commission for Higher Education. Any individual described above may make a written request for a determination by the commission of eligibility for benefits under this chapter. In determining the amount of an eligible individual's benefit, the commission shall consider other higher education financial assistance in conformity with this chapter.

For each eligible student assigned to a caseworker, the caseworker shall provide that student with information about the Twenty-First Century Scholars Program at the appropriate time for the student to receive the information, explain the program to the student, and provide the student with information concerning the following:

- Pell grants
- Chafee grants
- Federal supplemental grants
- The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Individual development accounts (as described under chapter 4-4-28)
- The Commission for Higher Education's programs under chapter 21-18.5-3

A student who receives this information shall sign a written acknowledgment that the student received the information.

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: Ann. Code §§ 21-12-6-6; 21-12-6-7

A student may apply to the commission for a scholarship. To qualify for a scholarship, the student must meet the following requirements:

- Be an eligible student who qualified to participate in the program under § 21-12-6-5
- Be a resident of Indiana
- Be a graduate from a secondary school located in Indiana that meets the admission criteria of an eligible institution and have achieved a cumulative grade-point average in high school of either of the following:
 - At least 2.0 on a 4.0 grading scale, if the student is expected to graduate from high school before July 1, 2014
 - At least 2.5 on a 4.0 grading scale, if the student is expected to graduate from high school after June 30, 2014
- Have applied to attend and be accepted to attend as a full-time student an eligible institution
- Certify in writing that before the student's graduation from high school the student met the following criteria:
 - Did not illegally use controlled substances
 - Did not illegally consume alcoholic beverages
 - Did not commit any other crime or a delinquent act
- Timely filed an application for other types of financial assistance available to the student from the State or Federal Government
- Completed an academic success program required under the rules adopted by the commission
- Submit to the commission all the information and evidence required by the commission to determine eligibility as a scholarship applicant
- Have a lack of financial resources reasonably available to the applicant, as defined by the commission, that, in the absence of an award under this chapter, would deter the scholarship applicant from completing the applicant's education at the approved postsecondary educational institution that the applicant has selected and that has accepted the applicant
- Meet any other minimum criteria established by the commission

For an individual who graduates from high school after December 31, 2011, to be eligible for a scholarship under this section, he or she must initially attend an eligible institution no later than the fall semester (or its equivalent, as determined by the commission) in the year immediately following the year in which the student graduates from high school.

A scholarship awarded by this program may be renewed. To qualify for a scholarship renewal, a scholarship recipient must do the following:

- Submit to the commission a renewal application with the required information to determine eligibility for the scholarship renewal
- Continue to be enrolled as a full-time student in good standing at an eligible institution
- Continue to have a lack of financial resources that, in the absence of an award, would deter the scholarship applicant from completing the applicant's education
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress, as determined by the eligible institution
- If the student initially enrolls in an eligible institution for an academic year beginning after August 31, 2019, complete a student success program designed by the commission in coordination with eligible institutions
- Beginning in an academic year beginning after August 31, 2017, the student successfully completes either of the following:
 - At least 30 credit hours or the equivalent during the last academic year in which the student received State financial aid
 - At least 30 credit hours or the equivalent during the last academic year in which the student was enrolled in postsecondary education
- Continue to meet any other minimum criteria established by the commission

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: Ann. Code §§ 21-12-6-10.3; 21-12-6-8; 21-12-6-12

A student who qualifies for a scholarship under the program shall be awarded the following amount:

- If the scholarship applicant attends an approved postsecondary educational institution that is a State educational institution, the full educational costs that the scholarship applicant would otherwise be required to pay at the eligible institution
- If the scholarship applicant attends an approved postsecondary educational institution that is private, the greater of either of the following:
 - The average of the educational costs of all State educational institutions, not including Ivy Tech Community College
 - The amount the applicant is eligible to receive under chapter 21-12-4
- If the scholarship applicant attends an approved postsecondary educational institution that is a postsecondary credit-bearing proprietary educational institution, the lesser of the educational costs that the scholarship applicant would otherwise be required to pay at the postsecondary credit-bearing proprietary educational institution or the educational costs of Ivy Tech Community College

The total of all tuition scholarships awarded under this section in a State fiscal year may not exceed the amount available for distribution from the fund for scholarships under this chapter. If the total amount to be distributed from the fund in a State fiscal year exceeds the amount available for distribution, the amount to be distributed to each eligible applicant shall be proportionately reduced so that the total reductions equal the amount of the excess based on the relative financial need of each eligible applicant.

A scholarship may be renewed under this chapter for a total scholarship award that does not exceed the number of academic terms that constitutes 4 undergraduate academic years.

Each eligible institution shall develop specific mentoring programs for scholarship recipients to assist the scholarship recipients through particularized academic and social counseling.

IOWA

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

This issue is not addressed in the statutes and regulations reviewed.

Planning for Postsecondary Education

Citation: Ann. Stat. §§ 232.2; 261.2

If the child is interested in pursuing higher education, the transition plan shall provide for the child's participation in the College Student Aid Commission's program of assistance in applying for Federal and State aid under § 261.2.

The commission shall develop and implement, in cooperation with the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the judicial branch, a program to assist juveniles who are age 16 or older and who have a case permanency plan under chapter 232 or 237 or are otherwise under the jurisdiction of chapter 232 in applying for Federal and State aid available for higher education.

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: Ann. Stat. § 261.87

A person is eligible for the All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship Program and Fund if the person is an 'eligible foster care student' who has a high school diploma or a general educational development (GED) diploma and is described by any of the following:

- Is age 17 and is in a court-ordered placement under chapter 232 under the care and custody of DHS or juvenile court services
- Is age 17 and has been placed in a State juvenile institution pursuant to a court order entered under chapter 232 under the care and custody of DHS
- Is described by any of the following:
 - On the date the person reached age 18 or during the 30 calendar days preceding or succeeding that date, the person was in a licensed foster care placement pursuant to a court under the care and custody of DHS or juvenile court services.
 - On the date the person reached age 18 or during the 30 calendar days preceding or succeeding that date, the person was under a court order to live with a relative or other suitable person.
 - The person was in a licensed foster care placement pursuant to a court order prior to being legally adopted after reaching age 16.
 - On the date the person reached age 18 or during the 30 calendar days preceding or succeeding that date, the person was placed in a State juvenile institution pursuant to a court order under the care and custody of DHS.

A person who meets all the following requirements is eligible for the program:

- Is a resident of Iowa and a citizen of the United States or a lawful permanent resident
- Applies in a timely manner for admission to an eligible institution and is accepted for admission
- Applies in a timely manner for any Federal or State student financial assistance available to the student to attend an eligible institution
- Files a new application and parents' confidential statement, as applicable, annually on the basis of which the applicant's eligibility for a renewed scholarship will be evaluated and determined
- Maintains satisfactory academic progress during each term for which a scholarship is awarded
- Begins enrollment at an eligible institution within 2 academic years of graduation from high school or receipt of a GED and continuously receives awards as a full-time or part-time student to maintain eligibility

However, the student may defer participation in the program for up to 2 years in order to pursue obligations that meet conditions established by the commission by rule or to fulfill military obligations.

Priority for scholarships under this section shall be given to eligible foster care students, then to eligible child survivors of police, peace officers, or firefighters, who meet the eligibility criteria.

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: Ann. Stat. § 261.87

A qualified student at an eligible institution may receive scholarships for not more than the equivalent of eight full-time semesters of undergraduate study, excluding summer semesters. A qualified student attending part-time may receive scholarships for not more than the equivalent of 16 part-time semesters of undergraduate study. Scholarships awarded pursuant to this section shall not exceed the least of the following amounts, as determined by the commission:

- The student's financial need
- One-half of the average resident tuition rate and mandatory fees established for institutions of higher learning governed by the State Board of Regents

KANSAS

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

Citation: Ann. Stat. § 38-2285; Pol. & Proc. Man. § 7221

The board of education of a school district shall award a high school diploma to any person requesting a diploma if such person meets the following requirements:

- Is at least age 17
- Is enrolled or resides in the school district
- Is or has been a child in the custody of the secretary for the Department for Children and Families, or in the custody of a federally recognized Indian Tribe in this State, at any time on or after such person's 14th birthday
- Has achieved at least the minimum high school graduation requirements adopted by the State Board of Education

In policy: To be eligible for an independent-living subsidy or foster care transition support services, youth shall be working on completion of secondary education or the equivalent via an accredited institution. An education plan that details the completion of the education or equivalent is required for the youth to receive foster care transition support services or subsidy. Youth with educational plans must attend class on a regular basis, complete assignments, and maintain passing grades. The plan shall be formally reevaluated by the independent-living coordinator, the youth, and his or her mentor (if assigned), at a minimum of every 6 months. The youth must be enrolled in the educational program specified in the plan and passing to continue to receive subsidy or foster care transition support services. Documentation of each reevaluation shall be attached to the plan.

The board of education of a Kansas school district must award a high school diploma to any person requesting a diploma if such person:

- Is at least age 17
- Is or has been a child in the custody of the department at any time on or after such person's 14th birthday

- Has achieved the 21-unit minimum high school graduation requirements adopted by the Kansas State Board of Education that shall include the following:
 - Four units of English-language arts, including reading, writing, literature, communication, and grammar
 - Three units of history and government, including world history; U.S. history; U.S. Government, including the U.S. Constitution; and concepts of economics and geography
 - Three units of science, including physical, biological, and earth and space science concepts and at least one unit as a laboratory course
 - Three units of mathematics, including algebraic and geometric concepts
 - One unit of physical education, which shall include health and which may include safety, first aid, or physiology
 - One unit of fine arts, which may include art, music, dance, theatre, forensics, and other similar studies selected by a local board of education
 - Six units of elective courses

Students should be allowed to participate in all graduation activities. Students should be awarded a regular high school diploma.

Planning for Postsecondary Education

This issue is not addressed in the statutes and regulations reviewed.

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: Ann. Stat. §§ 75-53,112; 75-53,115

The Kansas Foster Child Educational Assistance Program is a program that shall provide for undergraduate enrollment of eligible foster children through the semester the eligible foster child reaches age 23.

An 'eligible foster child' is anyone who meets the following requirements:

- Is in the custody of the secretary and in a foster care placement on the date such child reached age 18
- Has been released from the custody of the secretary prior to reaching age 18, after having graduated from a high school or fulfilled the requirements for a general educational development certificate while in foster care placement and the custody of the secretary
- Is adopted from a foster care placement on or after such child's 16th birthday
- Left a foster care placement subject to a guardianship on or after such child's 16th birthday
- Enrolls in a Kansas educational institution on or after July 1, 2006

In order to remain eligible for participation in the program, an eligible foster child shall remain in good standing at the Kansas educational institution where the eligible foster child is enrolled and shall make satisfactory progress toward completion of the requirements of the educational program in which the eligible foster child is enrolled.

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: Ann. Stat. §§ 75-53,111; 75-53,114; Pol. & Proc. Man. § 7260

The purpose of the Kansas Foster Child Educational Assistance Act is to establish an educational assistance program under which payment of the tuition and required fees charged to eligible foster children shall be waived.

No eligible foster child who is enrolled at a Kansas educational institution and who is participating in the program shall be charged the amount of tuition or required fees charged by the Kansas educational institution

for enrollment in courses necessary to satisfy the requirements of an educational program. However, an eligible foster child shall not have waived the amount of tuition or required fees waived for any course repeated or taken in excess of the requirements for completion of the educational program in which such foster child is enrolled.

Within the limits of appropriations available therefor, the secretary may make expenditures to reimburse each eligible foster child who is enrolled in a Kansas educational institution and who is participating in the program for room and board, technical equipment, and course-required books.

Each eligible foster child who is enrolled in a Kansas educational institution and who is participating in the program shall be responsible for all fees charged by the Kansas educational institution that are not directly related to and required for the courses in the educational program of the eligible foster child.

In policy: The waiver will cover tuition and required fees only for undergraduate enrollment of eligible youth through the semester the eligible youth reaches age 23. Tuition will not be waived for any course repeated or taken in excess of the requirements for completion of educational program in which such eligible youth is enrolled. Youth eligible for the Foster Child Educational Assistance Act also may be eligible for assistance for other costs of higher education through a Chafee Education and Training Voucher.

KENTUCKY

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

Citation: Admin. Regs. Tit. 922, § 1:340

The child-placing agency shall maintain documentation for each child concerning his or her progress in an educational program, including vocational education.

Planning for Postsecondary Education

Citation: Admin. Reg. Tit. 922, § 1:500

An Education and Training Voucher (ETV) shall be used to assist an eligible individual to prepare for and enter an institution of higher education, including the following:

- A fee for an educational aptitude examination to qualify for or apply to an institution of higher education
- An entrance or application fee required by an institution of higher education
- An enrollment fee or deposit required by an institution of higher education
- Cost of an educational aptitude course to prepare the eligible individual for an examination specified in this subsection
- Any additional expense required for entrance by the institution of higher education

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: Rev. Stat. § 164.2847

A child in foster care or who was adopted from foster care in Kentucky will qualify for a waiver of tuition and fees when the following apply:

- The student's family receives State-funded adoption assistance.
- The student is currently committed to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services under and placed in a family foster home or is placed in accordance with § 605.090(3).

- The student is in an independent-living program and the placement is funded by the cabinet.
- The student who is a child adopted from foster care was in the permanent legal custody of and placed for adoption by the cabinet. A student who meets the eligibility criteria of this paragraph and lives outside of Kentucky at the time of application to a Kentucky postsecondary institution may apply for the waiver up to the amount of tuition for a Kentucky resident.
- The cabinet was the student's legal custodian on his or her 18th birthday.

A child in foster care and involved with the Department of Juvenile Justice will qualify for a waiver of tuition and fees when the following apply:

- The student has not been sentenced to the department under chapter 640.
- The student has been committed to the department for at least 12 months.
- The student is in an independent-living program and placement is funded by the department.
- The parental rights of the student's parents have been terminated.
- The student was committed to the cabinet prior to a commitment to the department.

The student shall complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid to determine the level of need and eligibility for State and Federal financial aid programs. If the sum of the tuition waiver plus other student financial assistance, except loans and the work study program, from all sources exceeds the student's total cost of attendance, the tuition waiver shall be reduced by the amount exceeding the total cost of attendance.

The student shall be eligible for the tuition waiver for entrance to the institution for no more than 4 years after the date of graduation from high school and for 5 years after first admittance to any Kentucky institution, if satisfactory progress is achieved or maintained.

The expiration of a student's 5-year eligibility shall be extended upon a determination by the institution that the student was unable to enroll for or complete an academic term due to serving with any of the following:

- On active duty status in the U.S. Armed Forces
- As an officer in the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service
- On active service in the Peace Corps Act or the Americorps

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: Rev. Stat. § 164.2847; Admin. Reg. Tit. 922, § 1:500

Tuition and mandatory student fees for any undergraduate program of any Kentucky public postsecondary institution, including all 4-year universities and colleges and institutions of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, shall be waived for a child in foster care in Kentucky or a child who has been adopted from foster care who is a full-time or part-time student if the student meets all entrance requirements and maintains academic eligibility while enrolled at the postsecondary institution and if he or she meets the requirements described above.

Tuition and mandatory student fees for any undergraduate program of any Kentucky public postsecondary institution, including all 4-year universities and colleges and institutions of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, shall be waived for a child in foster care and involved with the Department of Juvenile Justice who is a full-time or part-time student if the student meets all entrance requirements and maintains academic eligibility while enrolled at the postsecondary institution and obtains a recommendation for participation from an official from the Department of Juvenile Justice and if he or she meets the requirements described above.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to do the following:

- Guarantee acceptance of or entrance into any postsecondary institution for a child in foster care or a child who has been adopted from foster care
- Limit the participation of a student in foster care or a student who has been adopted from foster care in any other program of financial assistance for postsecondary education
- Require any postsecondary institution to waive costs or fees relating to room and board
- Restrict any postsecondary institution, the Department of Juvenile Justice, or the Cabinet for Health and Family Services from accessing other sources of financial assistance, except loans, that may be available to a student in foster care or a student who has been adopted from foster care

In regulation: An ETV shall be used to pay for the cost of attendance at an institution of higher education. An ETV shall not exceed the lesser of \$5,000 per year or the total cost of attendance per year. To the extent that funds are available, the cabinet shall authorize payment for an application for an ETV to an eligible individual. In accordance with Federal law, an ETV shall not be approved for the same purpose as a tuition waiver or other student financial aid.

LOUISIANA

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

Citation: Child Welf. Pol. Man. § 6-1000

The Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) supports youth in completing high school through the following programs:

- Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) is a dropout prevention and recovery program that delivers a unique set of services for struggling students to help them earn a high school diploma and for out-of-school youth to assist them in earning a general educational development diploma. If a youth meets these criteria and there is a JAG program in their school, staff are encouraged to enroll the youth in this free program.
- Credit recovery for children who are behind in school, or dropout recovery programs for children who have previously dropped out of school and have fallen behind academically, are options for students to take or repeat a course through classroom, online, small-group, or one-on-one instruction, while focusing on the student's specific deficit areas, particularly in a previously failed course. Staff are to work with foster caregivers to utilize these programs to help children in foster care obtain or recover credits and progress to the appropriate grade level.

Planning for Postsecondary Education

Citation: Rev. Stat. §§ 46:1002; 17:3399.21; 17:3399.22; Child Welf. Pol. Man. § 6-1030

The DCFS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) shall provide, in each of its regional offices, vocational testing and counseling on higher education and employment for those individuals in long-term foster care at the youngest age deemed appropriate to process the information. Through vocational testing, OCFS shall seek to identify areas of potential interest and potential employment that are specific to an individual in foster care, and, to this end, OCFS shall do the following:

- Conduct a minimum of three, 1-hour-long counseling sessions annually with each individual, covering the subjects of potential employment both during and after high school, as well as possibilities for education beyond high school
- Encourage and assist individuals in long-term foster care to find part-time work while they are still in high school as a means of discovering their interests and capabilities, as well as fostering a sense of independence

The term 'foster youth' means any individual in the care, custody, or guardianship of DCFS in the foster care program for any 6 of the 72 months immediately prior to his or her 18th birthday.

Each public postsecondary education institution shall designate a foster student liaison within its financial aid office. This liaison shall be responsible for applying the provisions of the Federal Higher Education Act pertaining to the independent student status and financial aid eligibility of current and former foster youth and shall assist these students, both current and prospective, in applying for Federal and State financial aid and other assistance for which they may be eligible.

In policy: The case manager shall begin planning for postsecondary educational or vocational plans with the youth early (e.g., at initiation of youth transitioning planning). If the youth desires to attend college, it is important to start planning for admission in the youth's junior school year. The youth must have the motivation and the academic ability to succeed in college. Some steps the youth should undertake prior to college admission are the following:

- Take the American College Test and/or other required achievement test no later than the fall of the youth's senior year
- Submit an application to the chosen program
- Secure his or her high school transcript and, if needed, the school's guidance counselor's evaluation of the youth's ability to pursue the necessary courses for college admission
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for Federal grants, scholarships, and/or other financial aid application documents from the institution the youth plans to attend
- Plan for living arrangements if the youth cannot live in a foster home while attending college

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: Admin. Code Tit. 67, § 3901; Child Welf. Pol. Man. § 6-1315

Eligibility for the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program is limited to youth who meet the requirements of the program and is based on the availability of Federal funding. Participants should be any of the following:

- DCFS foster youth from age 14 to age 18
- Foster youth who aged out of foster care from age 18 to age 26
- Foster youth who were adopted from foster care after age 16
- Office of Juvenile Justice (OJJ) youth from age 14 to age 26
- Youth in a court-ordered guardianship from foster care initiated after age 16
- Native American youth from age 13 to age 26 who were in State or Tribal custody

In policy: Eligibility criteria for the Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program include the following:

- Enrollment in an accredited, postsecondary educational or vocational program
- Maintenance of a 2.0 grade-point average or satisfactory progress toward completion
- Foster youth age 16 and older who are likely to remain in foster care in DCFS or OJJ custody until age 18
- Former foster care youth who aged out of foster care at age 18 who are not yet age 21
- Youth adopted from foster care or those entering a guardianship subsidy arrangement with DCFS after age 16 but prior to reaching age 18
- Youth from out of State living in Louisiana who meet same criteria and are not receiving an ETV from the State where the youth was in foster care

Youth participating in the ETV program at age 21 are eligible until age 23 as long as they have been continuously enrolled and are making satisfactory progress.

The foster care case manager shall inform youth to apply for the ETV program through the financial aid office at their chosen postsecondary learning program.

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: Rev. Stat. § 17:3399.24; Child Welf. Pol. Man. §§ 6-1315; 6-1030

In order to ensure that current and former foster youth have access to stable housing, a public postsecondary education institution that offers student housing may develop a plan to provide that these students have access to housing resources as needed during and between academic terms. The plan may grant them first priority for housing placement and provide that they be placed in the institution's housing facility that remains open for occupation during the most days in a calendar year.

In policy: For youth to maximize their financial assistance for a postsecondary educational or vocational program, the case manager shall ensure the youth completes the FAFSA indicating the youth is/was a 'ward of the State.' Completion of this application ensures the youth receives the full amount allowable through the Federal Pell Grant program for postsecondary educational or vocational programs, as well as the ETV program.

The ETV program provides financial assistance for postsecondary education or vocational programs. The maximum allotment of ETVs for a youth is \$5,000 per academic year. Case managers shall inform all youth aging out of foster care on their caseload of ETVs by providing them with the ETV flyer found at <http://www.dcfslouisiana.gov/youthlink>. This discussion and assessment of a youth's eligibility shall be documented in the case notes.

All alternative funding sources, such as Pell Grants or the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students*, work/study, vocational rehabilitation, scholarships, ETV, etc., must be applied for prior to requesting approval of DCFS funding of the postsecondary educational service.

The amount requested by the case manager shall be the actual cost less the amount received by other funding sources, including the youth's contribution, if applicable. Fees for tuition, dorm lodging, meal tickets, and any other fees (books, supplies, clothing, personal items, etc.) shall be included in the cost. When a youth lives in a college dormitory, he or she can receive \$119 per month to cover the cost of personal items, clothing, and transportation to and from his or her retainer home, etc.

*For more information about this program, visit the [TOPS webpage](#) of the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance.

MAINE

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

Citation: Child & Fam. Serv. Pol. Man. § V(T)

Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) caseworkers will ensure that youth in care who are age 15 to 18 are provided with academic support; tutoring; study skills training; assistance with homework; preparation for Scholastic Aptitude Tests, general educational development (GED) diploma, and other exams; and help accessing educational resources.

Planning for Postsecondary Education

Citation: Child & Fam. Serv. Pol. Man. § V(T)

OCFS caseworkers will ensure that youth in care who are age 15 to 18 are provided with the following services:

- Postsecondary educational preparation and support
- Tutoring

- Information about academic and training programs
- Information about financial aid, Education and Training Voucher (ETV) funds, scholarships, and tuition waivers
- Help completing college or loan applications
- College tours
- Conversations and support that assist the youth to plan for, enter, and complete postsecondary education or training programs

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: Rev. Stat. Tit. 20-A, § 12572; Tit. 22, § 4010-C

A person is eligible for a tuition waiver if that person was in the custody of the Department of Health and Human Services and resided in foster care, subsidized adoptive care, or was a minor ward of a subsidized permanency guardian, as provided in title 22, § 4038-D, at the time that person graduated from high school or successfully completed a GED examination or its equivalent.

A person is eligible for a tuition waiver under this chapter if the following criteria are met:

- The person is a Maine resident.
- The person is a high school graduate or has attained a high school equivalency diploma.
- The person has been accepted for admission to a State postsecondary educational institution.

The tuition waiver provided by this chapter is limited to the following:

- Persons participating in undergraduate degree programs or certificate programs of at least 1 year
- Persons who have not been enrolled full time for more than 5 years or the equivalent
- Persons who have completed an application for Federal student financial aid programs for which they may be eligible

In order to be eligible to participate in the transition grant program, an individual must be at least age 21 but younger than age 27, must have exited the voluntary extended care and support agreement with the State under § 4037-A at age 21, and must be enrolled in a postsecondary education institution.

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: Rev. Stat. Tit. 20-A, §§ 12572; 12573; Tit. 22, § 4010-C

A person who was in the custody of the department and resided in foster care, subsidized adoptive care, or a subsidized permanency guardianship at the time that person graduated from high school or successfully completed a GED examination may attend any State postsecondary educational institution free of tuition charges.

The tuition waiver provided by this chapter is awarded on a yearly basis and continues to be available, if the person is otherwise eligible under this section, as long as the person remains in good academic standing at a State postsecondary educational institution.

A State postsecondary educational institution shall absorb the reduction in tuition revenues that results from providing a tuition waiver to an eligible person under this chapter. The institution may not request additional general fund appropriations from the legislature to offset the reduction in tuition revenues.

A person desiring a tuition waiver may apply to the Finance Authority of Maine for determination of eligibility. Application must be on forms and in a manner prescribed by rule of the authority. The authority shall determine whether an applicant is eligible and notify the applicant. The authority shall also notify the State

postsecondary educational institution at which the person is accepted of the eligibility of that person for a tuition waiver. Unless notified by the authority of a change in the student's eligibility, the institution may not bill an eligible student for tuition during that school year.

Tuition waivers to eligible persons are limited to 30 new students per year in each year at State postsecondary educational institutions as follows:

- The first 25 tuition waivers must be available to eligible persons at the University of Maine System, the Maine Maritime Academy, and the Maine Community College System.
- Of the five remaining tuition waivers, three must be available to eligible persons at the University of Maine System and two must be available to eligible persons at the Maine Community College System.

The department shall establish a transition grant program to provide financial support to eligible individuals to pay for postsecondary education. The transition grant is for postsecondary support up to the completion of an undergraduate degree. The level of financial support must be equivalent to the current voluntary extended foster care supports pursuant to § 4037-A. The department shall set duration limits, including a 6-year maximum for a 4-year degree, a 4-year maximum for a 2-year degree, and other duration limits for other types of postsecondary education. No more than 40 individuals at any one time may receive transition grants under this section.

The program must include postsecondary education navigator services that provide transitional services and college support. The department shall determine the specifics of those services.

MARYLAND

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

Citation: DHS Foster Care Educ. Man., § P

The Department of Human Services (DHS) shall help a student in foster care earn or to make up work and high school credits. When a student gets behind in the number of credits he or she needs to graduate from high school, it becomes more likely that he or she will not graduate. The caseworker will monitor a student's progress through high school to be certain that he or she is on track to graduate. For students who are attempting to make up academic work or to obtain original credit for courses, the following options may be offered, if applicable:

- Twilight school, an extended-day program
- Credit recovery program, available either at the school or through Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE)-approved online programs
- Online courses that must be MSDE approved to be awarded credit
- Evening high school, summer school, or Saturday school
- Maryland Virtual Learning Opportunities—MSDE-approved online courses
- General educational development (GED) program

Planning for Postsecondary Education

This issue is not addressed in the statutes and regulations reviewed.

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: Educ. Code § 15-106.1; Code of Regs. § 07.02.11.12

A 'foster care recipient' means an individual who meets the following criteria:

- Was placed in an out-of-home placement by DHS
- Either of the following apply:
 - The individual resided in an out-of-home placement on the individual's 18th birthday or at the time the individual graduated from high school or successfully completed a GED.
 - The individual resided in an out-of-home placement on or after the individual's 13th birthday for at least 1 year and was placed into guardianship, adopted, or reunited with at least one of the individual's parents.

'Foster care recipient' includes a younger sibling of an individual described above if the younger sibling is concurrently placed into guardianship or adopted out of an out-of-home placement by the same guardianship or adoptive family.

A foster care recipient or an unaccompanied homeless youth who is exempt from tuition under this section continues to be exempt until the earlier of either of the following:

- Ten years after first enrolling as a candidate for an associate degree or a bachelor's degree at a public institution of higher education in the State
- The date that the foster care recipient is awarded a bachelor's degree

In regulation: In order to qualify for the tuition waiver, the youth shall be placed by a local department of social services in an out-of-home placement within the State, as follows:

- At the time of graduation from high school or successful completion of a GED
- On the youth's 13th birthday and the youth is placed into guardianship or adopted from out-of-home placement after the youth's 13th birthday
- If the youth is the younger sibling of a youth described above and is concurrently placed into guardianship or adopted from an out-of-home placement by the same guardianship or adoptive family

The youth shall be exempted from paying any tuition at a Maryland public institution of higher education, regardless of the youth's receipt of scholarships or grants, if following apply:

- The youth is enrolled as a candidate for an associate degree, a bachelor's degree, or a vocational certificate at a Maryland public institution of higher education on or before age 25.
- The youth has filed for Federal and State financial aid by March 1 of each year.

A youth may request assistance in obtaining funds for higher education or vocational training, through the Federal Chafee Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program. To obtain funds from the ETV program, the youth shall have done the following:

- Have completed high school or received a GED certificate
- Have exhausted all other forms of financial aid/assistance before requesting funds
- Not be in default on any educational loan or owe a refund of an educational grant
- Have filed for Federal and State financial assistance by March 1 of each year for the upcoming school year

The ETV program is available to the following:

- Youth eligible for Chafee Independent Living Services, according to Federal guidelines, who are committed to Maryland
- Youth previously living in out-of-home placement and pursuing postsecondary education or training in an institution of higher education or vocational program
- Youth who were adopted or enter guardianship from out-of-home placement after their 16th birthday

Youth who are age 21 or older and are actively participating in the ETV program may remain eligible until they reach age 23 as long as they are continuously enrolled in postsecondary education and making satisfactory progress toward completion of the program.

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: Educ. Code § 15-106.1; Code of Regs. § 07.02.11.12

A foster care recipient is exempt from paying any tuition at a public institution of higher education, regardless of that foster care recipient's receipt of any scholarship or grant, if the following apply:

- The foster care recipient is enrolled at the institution on or before the date that the foster care recipient reaches age 25.
- The foster care recipient is enrolled as a candidate for a vocational certificate, an associate degree, or a bachelor's degree.
- The foster care recipient has filed for Federal and State financial aid.

If a foster care recipient receives a scholarship or grant for postsecondary study and is enrolled before the recipient's 25th birthday as a candidate for a vocational certificate, an associate degree, or bachelor's degree at a public institution of higher education, the scholarship or grant may not be applied to the tuition for the foster care recipient.

In regulation: The Maryland tuition waiver provides a waiver of tuition for a Maryland public institution of higher education and is applicable to certain youth in, or formerly in, out-of-home care.

Tuition is determined by the individual public institution of higher education and includes the cost of tuition and registration fees as well as all fees that are required as a condition of enrollment. Tuition does not include the cost of room, board, books, and transportation. The tuition waiver is available to the recipient for up to 5 years after first enrolling as a candidate for either an associate or bachelor's degree in a Maryland public institution of higher education, or until a bachelor's degree is awarded, whichever is earlier.

The waiver is applied to the cost of tuition and registration fees as well as all fees that are required as a condition of enrollment. Scholarships and grants that the youth receives may not be used to pay for these costs. The tuition waiver may not be applied retroactively.

ETV funds may be applied toward the following:

- Tuition and school fees
- Room and board
- Off-campus housing
- Books
- Rental or purchase of required equipment, materials, and supplies
- Child care
- Tutoring costs related to attendance in the educational program
- Transportation that is necessary for the student to attend school

MASSACHUSETTS

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

Citation: DCF Perm. Plan. Pol. # 2013-01

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) expects youth in placement to attend school regularly, do their best in school, and graduate from high school or obtain a general educational development (GED) certificate.

Planning for Postsecondary Education

Citation: DCF Perm. Plan. Pol. # 2013-01

DCF expects youth in placement, whenever possible, to continue their education in college or a vocational program after high school.

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: DCF Perm. Plan. Pol. # 2013-01

Persons who are eligible for the State College Tuition and Fee Waiver Program include the following:

- Youth who were in DCF custody, for at least 6 months, through age 18 and are unable to return home
- Youth who were adopted through DCF
- Youth who were placed in a DCF-sponsored guardianship through age 18

A young adult who has not earned a baccalaureate degree and meets the following conditions is eligible for the Foster Child Grant Program:

- Is a permanent legal resident of Massachusetts
- Is a U.S. citizen or noncitizen eligible under title IV regulations
- Was placed in the custody of DCF through a care-and-protection petition
- Remained in the care and custody of DCF until age 18 and has been unable to return home
- Is not older than age 24
- Voluntarily agrees to participate in educational support services offered by the Department of Social Services
- Is enrolled full time (12 credits or its equivalent)
- Has applied for financial aid, using the standard Free Application for Federal Student Aid
- Is in compliance with applicable law regarding Selective Service
- Is not in default of any Federal or State student loans for attendance at any institution or owed a refund for any previous financial aid received
- Is in good standing and meets the institution's requirements for satisfactory academic progress

For the Educational and Training Voucher (ETV) program, the youth must have achieved a high school diploma or GED certificate to be eligible for ETV funds. In addition, the following eligibility conditions apply:

- Youth who were adopted through DCF after reaching age 16
- Youth who were placed in a DCF-sponsored guardianship with kin after age 16 through age 18
- Youth who were in DCF custody until age 18, were unable to return home, and have not yet reached age 21

Youth who receive ETV funds prior to their 21st birthday will remain eligible until age 23.

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: Ann. Laws Ch. 15A, § 19; DCF Perm. Plan. Pol. # 2013-01; DCF Website

The State College Tuition and Fee Waiver Program shall provide full tuition and fee waivers for any State-supported course offered by an institution at a public institution of higher education, including courses toward an undergraduate degree program, certificate program, short-term certificate program, and noncredit courses at each community college, State university and undergraduate campus of the University of Massachusetts for students who are not older than age 24 and who, while in the DCF custody, were adopted by an eligible Massachusetts resident or commonwealth employee, as determined by DCF. The commonwealth, not the institutions of public higher education, shall bear the cost of these waivers after all reimbursements from the Federal Government have been exhausted.

The program shall provide tuition and fee waivers for any person who, upon reaching age 18, is in the custody of DCF or is the subject of a legal guardianship sponsored by DCF. No such person shall be required to remain in the care of DCF beyond age 18 to qualify for these waivers. Persons who return to the care of DCF after age 18 may qualify for these waivers. The commonwealth, not the institutions of public higher education, shall bear the cost of these waivers after all reimbursements from the Federal Government have been exhausted.

In policy: Youth who remain in DCF custody until age 18, reconnect with DCF after turning age 18, were placed in a DCF-sponsored guardianship, or were adopted through DCF may be eligible for various educational supports up to age 25, including the following:

- Foster Child Grant Program
- ETV program
- Tuition and Fee Waiver Program
- William Warren Scholarship Program

Specific eligibility information regarding these programs may found on the DCF website.

From the [DCF website](#): The State College Tuition and Fee Waiver Program waives the cost of tuition of State-supported classes only at Massachusetts public universities and community colleges. The waiver does not cover books or room and board.

The William Warren Scholarship provides financial assistance for any postsecondary certificate or degree-granting program. The scholarship is competitive, and students are evaluated on academic merit and financial need. Scholarships are granted once a year, and applications are submitted in the summer and awarded in the fall. All youth who were in DCF placement for a minimum of 1 year and have not reached age 25 are eligible to apply.

The federally funded ETV grant provides support for postsecondary educational or vocational training programs, including colleges and trade schools, and related costs of attendance (tuition, fees, room and board, books, transportation, and daycare), as defined in the Higher Education Act of 1965.

MICHIGAN

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

Citation: Comp. Laws § 722.982

Through the Foster Care Independence program, the department shall provide young adults who are likely to remain in foster care until age 18 assistance in obtaining a high school diploma, career exploration, vocational training, and job placement and retention.

Planning for Postsecondary Education

Citation: Comp. Laws § 722.982

Through the Foster Care Independence program, the department shall help young adults who are likely to remain in foster care until age 18 prepare for and enter postsecondary training and education institutions.

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: Comp. Laws §722.1027b; Foster Care Pol. Man. § FOM-960

A student who is or has been in foster care is eligible for a Fostering Futures Scholarship if all the following apply:

- Due to child abuse or child neglect, the student was in foster care after his or her 13th birthday.
- The student is attending an institution of higher education in this State, as determined by the Department of Treasury.
- The student has an unmet financial education need.
- The student has completed the application and provided the department with the required documentation.
- The student maintains satisfactory academic progress, as determined by the department.

In policy: Youth eligible for the Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program include the following:

- Youth who are or have been in an eligible foster care placement through the State of Michigan on or after their 14th birthday
- Youth adopted from foster care or placed in a relative guardianship from foster care after reaching age 16

Eligible youth must have a high school diploma or a general educational development diploma and be attending, at least part time, an accredited postsecondary institution.

There are no minimum age restrictions for the ETV program. A youth must be participating in the ETV program on or before his or her 21st birthday to remain eligible until the he or she reaches age 26. Continued eligibility requires enrollment in a postsecondary education or training program and satisfactory progress toward completion of that program.

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: Comp. Laws § 722.1030; Foster Care Pol. Man. § FOM-960

Funds from the Fostering Futures Scholarship shall not be disbursed to a student who is currently or formerly in foster care until after that student has exhausted all other known available restricted grants for qualified educational expenses for postsecondary education provided by a Federal, State, or local governmental entity, as determined by the department, except for funds provided under the Michigan Promise Zone Authority Act, §§ 390.1661 to 390.1679.

Funds provided by the department on behalf of a student currently or formerly in foster care under this act shall not exceed the cost of that student's tuition, fees, room, board, books, supplies, and equipment required for enrollment at the institution of higher education, as determined by the department.

In policy: The Chafee ETV program provides resources specifically to meet the education and training needs of youth transitioning out of foster care. This program provides vouchers of up to \$5,000 per fiscal year (amount to be determined by available Federal and State funds) to eligible youth attending postsecondary education and vocational programs.

MINNESOTA

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

Citation: DHS Website

From the [Department of Human Services \(DHS\) website](#): The STAY program may aid youth with continuing their education, including obtaining tutors, general education developmental (GED) fees, American College Test/Scholastic Aptitude Test or other test fees, postsecondary school applications and fees, postsecondary school financial aid applications, and vital documents for those applications.

Planning for Postsecondary Education

Citation: ETV Guidelines (DHS-5339M)

The independent-living plan for youth age 14 and older required by Minnesota statutes, § 260C.212, must include planning for postsecondary education. Youth under State/Tribal guardianship and those under permanent custody of a social service agency are the highest priority in preparing for adult living. Instilling a vision of postsecondary education can start at any age, with concrete planning starting in middle school.

School districts must assist all students by no later than grade 9 to explore their educational, postsecondary educational, and career interests, aptitudes, and aspirations. This includes developing a plan for a smooth and successful transition to postsecondary education or employment, per Minnesota statutes, § 120B.125.

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: ETV Guidelines (DHS-5339M)

First-time applicants are eligible to apply for the Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program after meeting the following criteria:

- Are under age 26 when their complete application is submitted
- Have graduated from high school or received a GED diploma
- Are accepted into an accredited Federal Pell Grant-eligible institution of higher education
- Are awarded financial aid, such as the Federal Pell Grant or Minnesota State Grant
- Are one of the following:
 - In a foster care placement, made by the responsible county or Tribal social service agency, for 30 consecutive days or more between their 17th and 18th birthdays
 - Adopted, including customary adoptions, from foster care after their 16th birthday
 - In foster care on or after age 16 when the court ordered transfer of permanent legal and physical custody to a relative
 - Under State guardianship or Tribal guardianship at age 18

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: MN State Coll. & Univ. Pol., Proc. # 5.12.2; ETV Guidelines (DHS-5339M)

The president of a college or university may waive tuition for persons under age 21 who are under the guardianship of the DHS commissioner or for an American Indian child under suspension of parental rights or termination of parental rights under the guardianship of a Tribe or Tribal social services agency. These persons must be qualified for admission to a Minnesota State college or university.

The president of a college or university may continue to waive tuition up to and beyond age 21 for students meeting eligibility requirements. If the student has reached age 21 and has made satisfactory progress in his or her academic program but has not completed the program, the individual may petition the college or university through his or her designated campus official for continuation of the waiver until that program is completed. The designated campus official will make a recommendation to the president of the college or university. The decision to continue to waive tuition will be at the discretion of the president of the college or university.

From the Guidelines: The Minnesota ETV program is funded by the Federal Government and administered by the Minnesota DHS. Implemented in 2003, ETVs provide funds for eligible youth to attend accredited colleges and universities as well as vocational, technical, or trade schools. Students can receive up to \$5,000 per ETV award year to help pay for approved school and living expenses. ETVs supplement a student's efforts to obtain financial assistance to help pay for the cost of postsecondary education. ETVs do not have to be paid back.

MISSISSIPPI

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

Citation: Code of Rules § 18-006-104, Part IX

The resource guide is designed to assist youth in locating and enrolling in educational or vocational programs appropriate to their needs, interests, abilities, and goals, including high school or general educational development (GED) programs, colleges or universities, vocational training programs, and special education services.

The Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services (DCPS) offers a stipend to help defray senior/final-year expenses for youth receiving a high school diploma, GED, or a certificate of attendance at the close of the school/program year in which the stipend is requested.

Planning for Postsecondary Education

Citation: Code of Rules § 18-006-104, Part IX

A college-bound stipend is available to youth in care who plan to attend a postsecondary education program. Allowable purchases are items needed to furnish a residence (on or off campus), such as a bedspread, curtains, rugs, refrigerator, microwave, trunk, bookcase, small appliances, computer, furniture items, and books/resource materials.

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: Code of Rules § 18-006-104, Part IX

The following individuals will be considered for the Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program:

- Youth currently in the custody of DCPS
- Youth who have left custody at age 16 years or older and have not yet reached age 21 and have been in custody for at least 6 consecutive months after age 16

- Youth who were adopted at age 16 and have not yet reached age 21
- Youth who graduate high school or receive a GED or a certificate of attendance
- Youth who have participated in the ETV program prior to their 21st birthday in order to continue receiving ETV funds until their 23rd birthday

Youth must first apply for and have received confirmation from the institution through an award letter to include the Pell Grant, Mississippi Tuition Assistance Grant, scholarships, or other grants, if applicable.

The applicant must meet the following criteria:

- Be enrolled in an institution of higher education, as defined by the higher education act, that offers the following:
 - Awards a bachelor's degree or is no less than a 2-year program (associate degree)
 - Provides no less than 1 year of training toward gainful employment
 - Provides training for gainful employment through a vocational program that has been in existence for at least 2 years
- Be in good standing with the college, university, or vocational training school
- Maintain a grade-point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale
- Make progress toward completing the program he or she is enrolled in

Priority will be given to the full-time students in the event ETV funding is depleted during the Federal fiscal year.

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: Code of Rules § 18-006-104, Part IX

The ETV program is a Federal program that provides supplemental resources to meet the cost of attendance in postsecondary educational and vocational programs, as defined in the Higher Education Act of 1965, for all youth aging out of custody. This program makes vouchers of up to \$5,000 per year available to eligible youth attending postsecondary education. The amount that a youth attending school full-time may receive is limited to \$5,000, which must be utilized during the fiscal year. Part-time students may receive \$2,500 per fiscal year.

MISSOURI

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

Citation: Child Welf. Man. § 5.3.1

The services of the Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (CFCP) program include assistance in obtaining a high school diploma, career exploration, vocational training, and job placement and retention.

Planning for Postsecondary Education

Citation: Child Welf. Man. §§ 5.3.1; 5.7.1; 5.7.2

The goals of the CFCP program include the following:

- To assist youth who are likely to remain in foster care until age 18 prepare for and enter postsecondary training and education institutions
- To make available vouchers for education and training, including postsecondary learning and education, to youth who have aged out of foster care

Other resources available to youth in foster care include the following:

- Youth in foster care are eligible to take the American College Test for free.
- When completing the free application for student financial aid, the youth can mark himself or herself down as a one-person family. This will help the youth receive the most financial aid available.

In addition, youth age 15 or older in foster care are eligible to receive a visit to a State university, community, or technical college or an armed services recruiter before being adopted or terminated from foster care. The visit is to include an entry application process, financial support application and availability, career options with academic or technical training, a campus tour, and other information and experience desired by the youth.

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: Ann. Stat. § 173.270; Child Welf. Man. § 5.7.3

To be eligible for a tuition waiver award, a student shall meet the following requirements:

- Is a resident of this State
- Has graduated within the previous 3 years from high school or passed the general educational development (GED) examination
- Has been in foster care or other residential care under the department of social services on or after any of the following:
 - The day preceding the student's 18th birthday
 - The day of the student's 14th birthday, if the student was also eligible for adoption on or after that day
 - The day the student graduated from high school or received a GED
- Has applied to and been accepted at the institution no later than either of the following:
 - The third anniversary of the date the student was discharged from foster or other residential care, the date the student graduated from high school, or the date the student received a GED diploma, whichever is earliest
 - The student's 21st birthday
- Has applied for other student financial assistance, other than student loans, in compliance with Federal financial aid rules, including the Federal Pell Grant
- Has applied to the Coordinating Board for Higher Education for a determination of eligibility
- Completes a minimum of 100 hours of community service or public internship within a 12-month period beginning September 1st for each year in which the student is receiving a tuition and fee waiver award under this section

The Department of Higher Education, in collaboration with participating State institutions of higher education, shall by rule determine the community service and public internships that students may participate in to meet the requirements of this subdivision. A student may fulfill this requirement by completing the necessary community service or public internship hours during the summer.

In policy: Persons eligible for federally funded Education and Training Vouchers (ETVs) include the following:

- Youth currently eligible for CFCP services
- Youth who were adopted or obtained legal guardianship from foster care after their 16th birthday

The following additional requirements apply:

- Youth shall remain eligible until age 26, provided they are making satisfactory progress.
- A youth must be enrolled at least one semester prior to turning age 26 as all funding ends at the 26th birthday.
- Youth must have a high school diploma or the equivalent.

- Youth must demonstrate academic success or motivation in school (generally a 'C' average or its equivalent or as otherwise agreed upon with the plan) or in a training program.
- Youth must be accepted to an accredited or preaccredited public or nonprofit college, university, vocational school, or certified training program.
- Appropriate scholarships, grants, and other financial assistance must be explored and utilized.
- There must be reasonable assurance the youth will graduate from the educational or training program.
- Personal assets (bank account, car, home, etc.) are not worth more than \$10,000.

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: Ann. Stat. § 173.270; Child Welf. Man. § 5.7.3

The Coordinating Board for Higher Education shall make provisions for institutions under the board's jurisdiction to award a tuition and fee waiver for undergraduate courses at State institutions of higher education for any student, beginning with incoming freshmen in the 2010 fall semester or term, who meets eligibility criteria.

The tuition and fee waiver provided by this section shall be awarded on an annual basis, subject to appropriation to reimburse the institution, and shall continue to be available, if the student is otherwise eligible under this section, as long as the student remains in good academic standing at the State institution of higher education.

The waiver provided by this section for each eligible student may be used for no more than 4 years of undergraduate study and may only be used after other sources of financial aid that are dedicated solely to tuition and fees are exhausted.

In policy: Through the ETV program, youth may receive up to \$5,000 per year or the total 'cost of attendance.' The cost of attendance includes the following:

- Tuition and fees
- Room and board for youth formerly in foster care who left care at age 18 or after but have not reached age 21
- Rental or purchase of required equipment, materials, or supplies (including a computer)
- Allowance for books, supplies, transportation, etc.
- Special study projects

Room and board assistance also may be available to eligible youth age 21 to 23 if they are enrolled full time in a postsecondary educational or training program.

Youth may receive funding for a maximum of 5 years. The funding does not have to be received consecutively in years but will end on the youth's 26th birthday regardless if the youth has been receiving funds for 5 years.

MONTANA

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

Citation: Child & Fam. Serv. Pol. Man. § 408-1

A youth in foster care receives academic services designed to help him or her complete high school or obtain a general educational development (GED) degree. The services available include academic counseling,

preparation for a GED, applying/studying for the GED exam, tutoring, help with homework, study-skills training, literacy training, and help accessing educational resources.

Planning for Postsecondary Education

Citation: Child & Fam. Serv. Pol. Man. § 408-1

A youth in foster care receives support designed to help the youth enter or complete college. The assistance provided may include classes for test preparation (such as the American College Test/Scholastic Aptitude Test), counseling about college, information about financial aid and scholarships, help with completing college or loan applications, and tutoring while in college.

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: Child & Fam. Serv. Pol. Man. § 408-1

A youth may qualify for the Education and Training Vouchers (ETV) program if the youth meets any of the following criteria:

- Is age 14 or older and currently in foster care
- Has 'aged out' of foster care and is not yet age 21
- Was in foster care at age 18
- Has had a guardianship established or adoption finalized after his or her 16th birthday

Priority for services is given to youth who have exited foster care because they reached age 18 and to youth age 14 or older likely to be in foster care until age 18. The child protection specialist, supervisor, or permanency-planning specialist identifies youth who are likely to 'age out' of foster care.

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: Child & Fam. Serv. Pol. Man. § 408-1

Reach Higher Montana is the contractor for the ETV program.

The amount of funding each youth receives depends on the number of youth who apply for ETV in a State fiscal year. The maximum amount allowable per Federal regulations for an eligible youth to attend an eligible institution of higher education is \$5,000 per year. However, award amounts might be significantly less than the \$5,000 depending on the number of youth who apply for ETV in Montana.

The total amount awarded is dependent on other assistance available and cannot exceed the cost of attendance as defined by the Higher Education Act.

If a youth is still enrolled (based on the academic institution's definition of 'enrollment'), in a postsecondary education or training program and has been making satisfactory progress toward completing the program, despite not actually taking classes at the time the youth turns 21, the youth's eligibility for ETV assistance may continue until age 26. The determination as to whether the youth continues to be eligible must be made based on the individual institution's policy on enrollment and standards for satisfactory academic progress.

NEBRASKA

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

Citation: Rev. Stat. § 43-4505

The Bridge to Independence program will provide case-management services to assist the young adult complete secondary education.

Planning for Postsecondary Education

Citation: Rev. Stat. § 43-4505

The Bridge to Independence program will provide case-management services to assist the young adult apply for admission and aid for postsecondary education or vocational courses.

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: Rev. Stat. § 85-1907

An undergraduate student who meets the following criteria is eligible for a Nebraska Opportunity Grant:

- Is enrolled in an eligible postsecondary educational institution
- Has applied for Federal financial aid through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid for the applicable award year and has an expected family contribution that is equal to or less than 110 percent of the maximum expected family contribution to qualify for a Federal Pell Grant in that award year
- Is a resident student who is domiciled in Nebraska
- Complies with all other provisions of the Nebraska Opportunity Grant Act and its rules and regulations

Note: The Nebraska Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program is now administered by the Central Plains Center for Services, a private nonprofit social services agency. For more information on program services and benefits, visit the center's [website](#).

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: Rev. Stat. §§ 85-1909; 85-1911; 85-1903; 85-1915

Tuition and mandatory fees means the lesser of the student costs for tuition and mandatory fees for a full-time, resident, undergraduate student for the last completed award year at the eligible postsecondary educational institution or the student costs for tuition and mandatory fees for a full-time, resident, undergraduate student for the last completed award year at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The Nebraska Opportunity Grant Act shall provide for awards made directly to eligible students based on financial need. An award shall not exceed 50 percent of the tuition and mandatory fees for a full-time, resident, undergraduate student for the last completed award year at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

An award may be granted to an eligible student for attendance at an eligible postsecondary educational institution if the following conditions are met:

- The eligible student is accepted for enrollment as follows:
 - In the case of an eligible student beginning his or her first year in attendance at an eligible postsecondary educational institution, such eligible student has satisfied requirements for admission and has enrolled or indicated an intent to enroll in an eligible postsecondary educational institution.
 - In the case of an eligible student enrolled in an eligible postsecondary educational institution following the successful completion of the student's first year in attendance, such eligible student continues

to meet the requirements of the Nebraska Opportunity Grant Act and has maintained the minimum standards of performance, as required by the eligible postsecondary educational institution in which the eligible student is enrolled.

- The eligible student receiving such award certifies that the award will be used only for educational expenses.
- The eligible student has complied with the act and its rules and regulations.

NEVADA

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

Citation: Child & Fam. Serv. Pol. Man. § 0801.5.10

Services that can be provided with Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) funds include the following:

- Assistance to obtain a high school diploma, including financial assistance (class ring, cap and gown, senior pictures, etc.)
- Career exploration and vocational training
- Job placement and retention

Planning for Postsecondary Education

Citation: Child & Fam. Serv. Pol. Man. § 0801.5.10

Services that can be provided with CFCIP funds include assisting youth with the following:

- Prepare for and enter postsecondary training and education institutions
- Access eligible financial assistance (college application fees, etc.)
- Obtain available vouchers for education and training, including postsecondary training and education

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: Nev. Syst. of Higher Educ. Bd. of Regents Handbook, T4-CH17, § 13; Child & Fam. Serv. Pol. Man. § 0801.5.10

From the [Board of Regents Handbook](#): A student who was in the custody of an agency that provides child welfare services in Nevada after the student reached age 14 years may be permitted to register for credit without a registration fee or, except as otherwise provided, laboratory fee(s) if the student meets the following criteria:

- Has graduated from high school or obtained a general equivalency diploma or equivalent document
- Completes the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Is under age 26

A student placed out of State by a Nevada child welfare agency for the purpose of treatment or who was placed out of State through an Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children and did not achieve permanency with a family prior to reaching age 18 is eligible for the waiver.

This policy is applicable during fall and spring terms only.

In policy: CFCIP is intended to serve youth who are likely to remain in foster care until age 18; youth who, after reaching age 16, have left foster care for kinship guardianship or adoption; and young adults ages 18 to 21 who have 'aged out' of the foster care system.

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: Rev. Stat. § 396.540; Bd. of Regents Handbook, T4-CH17, § 13; Child & Fam. Serv. Pol. Man. § 0801.5.10

All students whose families have been bona fide residents of the State of Nevada for at least 12 months before the matriculation of the student at a university, State college, or community college within the State system shall not be charged tuition.

From the Board of Regents Handbook: State-supported academic credit-bearing courses that lead to a degree or certificate, including distance education courses, independent learning, and continuing education courses are eligible for the fee waiver. Self-supporting courses, including independent study and correspondence courses, are not eligible for waiver under this policy.

Laboratory fees associated with all courses numbered below the 300 level are eligible for waiver under this policy. Exceptions to the waiver of laboratory fees include the following:

- Per semester fees, such as the health service fee
- Special course fees for purposes other than class supplies, including individual instruction, third-party charges, and special transportation requirements
- Fees for actual class cost in excess of \$100
- Technology fees

A person to whom the fee waiver is awarded shall be deemed a bona fide resident of Nevada for tuition purposes. To remain eligible for the fee waiver, the student must meet institutional title IV financial aid satisfactory academic progress requirements.

Registration fees associated with graduate level courses and with the William S. Boyd School of Law; the University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine; the University of Nevada, Las Vegas School of Medicine; and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas School of Dental Medicine are not eligible for waiver under this policy.

In policy: The purpose of federally funded Education and Training Vouchers is to provide financial assistance for postsecondary training and education to youth who, after reaching age 16, have left foster care for an approved title IV-E kinship guardianship or adoption.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

This issue is not addressed in the statutes and regulations reviewed.

Planning for Postsecondary Education

Citation: Admin. Rules § He-C 6347.07; Foster Care Resource Guide

The foster parent will assist the youth in applying to college or a career training program and with other aftercare planning as needed.

From the [resource guide](#): The Division for Children, Youth and Families is in partnership with the New Hampshire Higher Education Assistance Foundation to conduct a series of workshops for youth in foster care with college aspirations. Youth and their caregivers are connected to a college counselor who will guide them through the college application, admissions, and financial aid process. Specific college information for youth in

care includes scholarship and resource information and tips for completing the Federal Application for Student Assistance (FAFSA).

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: Rev. Stat. § 187-A:20-b

A person is eligible for waiver of tuition and fees at any public postsecondary institution within the State if the person is younger than age 23 and is or was the following:

- In State foster care for the immediate 6-month period prior to his or her 18th birthday
- In State guardianship or custody at the time of his or her 18th birthday
- Adopted while in State guardianship or adopted from the care, custody, and control of the Department of Health and Human Services following a surrender of parental rights
- In an out-of-home placement under the supervision of the Division for Juvenile Justice Services at the time of his or her 18th birthday

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: Rev. Stat. § 187-A:20-b; Foster Care Resource Guide

An eligible individual who enrolls full time in a program leading to a certificate, associate, or bachelor's degree at any public postsecondary institution within the State shall not be required to pay tuition or fees for attendance at such institution.

Eligible individuals interested in a tuition waiver shall annually apply on forms provided and within the deadlines established by the university system of New Hampshire and the community college system of New Hampshire for their respective institutions. No more than 15 tuition waivers per year shall be granted by the university system of New Hampshire, and no more than 15 tuition waivers per year shall be granted by the community college system of New Hampshire. The university system of New Hampshire and the community college system of New Hampshire shall have the authority to develop eligibility criteria for their respective institutions designed to give the children with the greatest financial need first priority in the tuition waiver program. Such eligibility criteria also shall include provisions for continuing eligibility based on continued full-time enrollment and satisfactory academic progress, as defined by the institution.

An eligible individual also may apply for a room-and-board scholarship under the provisions of § 187-A:20-a(II), without the necessity of being the child of a firefighter or police officer who died while in performance of his or her duties, as required by § 187-A:20-a(I).

From the resource guide: Federally funded Educational and Training Vouchers are available to assist eligible youth with paying for the costs of college.

NEW JERSEY

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

Citation: Pol. Man. CP&P-VI-A-1-100

Chafee program services include the following:

- Academic support, which are services designed to help a youth complete high school or obtain a general educational development (GED) diploma. Such services include the following:
 - Academic counseling
 - Preparation for a GED, including assistance in applying for or studying for a GED exam

- Tutoring, help with homework, study skills training, and literacy training
- Help accessing educational resources
- Education financial assistance, which are payments that are paid for or provided by the State agency for education or training, including the following:
 - Allowances to purchase textbooks, uniforms, computers, and other educational supplies
 - Tuition assistance and scholarships
 - Payment for educational preparation and support services (i.e., tutoring)
 - Payment for GED and other educational tests

Planning for Postsecondary Education

Citation: Pol. Man. CP&P-VI-A-1-100

Chafee program services include postsecondary educational support, which are services designed to help a youth enter or complete postsecondary education, including the following:

- Classes for test preparation, such as the Scholastic Aptitude Test
- Counseling about college
- Information about financial aid and scholarships
- Help completing college or loan applications
- Tutoring while in college

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: Ann. Stat. §§ 30:4C-103; 30:4C-104; Pol. Man. CP&P-VII-A-1-300

A child shall be eligible to qualify for the Statewide Tuition Waiver Program if the child meets the following requirements at the time of the initial application to the commissioner of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) for a tuition waiver:

- The child is age 16 to 23.
- The child meets any of the following criteria:
 - Has been in the care and custody of the division for 9 months or more following the child's 16th birthday
 - Is or has been residing in an independent-living arrangement or a transitional living program operated or approved by the division
- The child has received a high school diploma or a certificate of high school equivalency.
- The child has been granted admission to a New Jersey public institution of higher education or county vocational school.

A child who meets the eligibility requirements listed in this section may apply to the DCF commissioner for a tuition waiver in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner.

Each child approved for the program shall be required to enroll in a full-time degree, diploma, or certificate program or course of undergraduate study and retain satisfactory academic progress during the time the child qualifies for a tuition waiver.

The applicant shall complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to determine the level of need and eligibility for State and Federal financial aid programs. If the sum of the tuition waiver plus other Federal,

State, and institutional student financial assistance, except loans, exceeds the total cost of the child's tuition, the tuition waiver shall be reduced by the amount exceeding that cost.

In policy: The applicant for the New Jersey Foster Care Scholars Program must meet the following requirements:

- Be between age 16 and 22
- Be in the care and custody of DCF, Division of Child Protection and Permanency (CP&P), for 9 months or more following the youth's 16th birthday
- Reside in or have resided in a CP&P-paid placement for at least 2 years or was adopted through CP&P after age 12
- Reside in or have resided in an independent-living arrangement or transitional living program for youth in out-of-home placement approved for payment by CP&P or the Federal Government
- Possess a high school diploma or certificate of high school equivalency
- Has been granted admission to an accredited degree- or certificate-granting postsecondary institution

The applicant also must submit the following:

- Proof of a completed FAFSA
- A completed and signed tuition waiver application
- Proof of acceptance or current enrollment from the postsecondary institution the applicant is planning to attend or is currently attending
- Most recent school transcript
- A letter of recommendation from an adult who knows the applicant well
- A one-page essay

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: *Ann. Stat. §§ 30:4C-102; 30:4C-103; Pol. Man. CP&P-VII-A-1-300*

In DCF, there is created the 'Statewide Tuition Waiver Program.' The purpose of the program is to provide State-paid tuition to children who have been under the care and custody of the Division of Youth and Family Services and who are interested in pursuing a college or postsecondary vocational education at a public institution of higher education or county vocational school in this State.

Upon receipt of an application, the DCF commissioner shall review the application and, if the child meets the program eligibility requirements, approve the application and notify the appropriate New Jersey public institution of higher education or county vocational school that the child qualifies for a tuition waiver.

Eligibility for the program shall be limited to 5 years from the date the child applied to the commissioner for a tuition waiver.

In policy: The New Jersey Foster Care Scholars Program provides financial assistance to eligible youth seeking a postsecondary education. The program assists youth with the following educational needs:

- Tuition and fees
- Room and board
- Books and supplies
- Transportation
- Special equipment and computer
- Child care costs

Students attending classes full time at a New Jersey public college, university, or technical school are eligible to receive the full cost of their tuition, based on good academic standing. A maximum of \$5,000 per year can

be awarded to students who attend part time, in State, or out of State. The same applies to students attending private schools, full time or part time.

NEW MEXICO

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

This issue is not addressed in the statutes and regulations reviewed.

Planning for Postsecondary Education

This issue is not addressed in the statutes and regulations reviewed.

Eligibility Requirements

This issue is not addressed in the statutes and regulations reviewed.

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: Ann. Stat. § 21-1-4.7; Admin. Code § 8.10.9.20

State educational institutions, community colleges, and technical and vocational institutes shall not charge tuition or fees, pursuant to § 21-1-4, to a student who enrolls in one of the State educational institutions, community colleges, or technical and vocational institutes no later than the day of the student's 25th birthday, and to whom either of the following apply:

- The Children, Youth and Families Department provides certification that the student was in the legal custody of the department, pursuant to § 32A-1-1, on or after the day of the student's 14th birthday
- A New Mexico Indian nation, Tribe, or pueblo or the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Division of Human Services provides certification that the student was in the legal custody of a New Mexico Indian nation, Tribe, or pueblo or the BIA on or after the day of the student's 14th birthday

The Higher Education Department shall collaborate with the department; the New Mexico Indian nations, Tribes, or pueblos; and BIA to ensure that middle school and high school students who are or have been in the legal custody of the department; a New Mexico Indian nation, Tribe, or pueblo; or BIA learn about the provisions of this section.

In regulation: Federally funded Education and Training Vouchers (ETVs) shall be available to eligible youth to assist them in obtaining postsecondary education or vocational training. ETV funds may not cover expenses already paid by scholarships, grants, loans, work study, etc. Receipt of ETV funds shall not affect a student's eligibility for other Federal assistance. ETV funds shall be paid to the provider and shall not be distributed through personal checks payable to the youth. The assigned youth transition specialist shall assist the youth in filling out the necessary application and gathering the appropriate supporting documentation.

NEW YORK

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

Citation: OCFS Info. Ltr. # 19-OCFS-LCM-08

Through the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (Chafee program), the Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) will provide academic supports to eligible youth that are designed to help youth complete

high school or complete classes for the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC). Services include such activities as academic counseling, preparation for TASC, tutoring, help with homework, literacy training, study skills training, and help accessing educational resources. Academic support does not include tuition for a public or private high school, transportation to and from school, or postsecondary supports.

Planning for Postsecondary Education

Citation: Educ. Law § 6456; OCFS Info. Ltr. # 19-OCFS-LCM-08

Funds made available to institutions under the Foster Youth College Success initiative shall be spent for the following purposes:

- Summer college preparation programs to help youth in foster care transition to college; prepare them to navigate on-campus systems; and provide preparation in reading, writing, and mathematics for foster youth who need it
- Advisement, tutoring, and academic assistance for foster youth

In policy: Postsecondary educational support provided through the Chafee program include services designed to help a youth enter or complete a 2- or 4-year college or vocational program. Services may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Classes for test preparation (i.e., American College Test/Scholastic Aptitude Test)
- College counseling
- Assistance with applying for college
- Help with loan applications
- Securing financial aid
- Tutoring
- College tours

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: OCFS Info. Ltr. # 19-OCFS-LCM-08; 20-OCFS-INF-05

The following youth are eligible for Chafee services:

- Youth who have experienced foster care at age 14 or older, including extended foster care, starting at age 14 up through their 21st birthday
- Youth who aged out of foster care at age 18, 19, or 20 until their 21st birthday
- Youth who exited foster care to either adoption or legal guardianship after reaching age 16 until their 21st birthday
- Youth who exited foster care for reasons other than adoption, guardianship, or aging out of foster care (e.g., youth who were reunified), if they experienced foster care at age 14 or older and are younger than age 21

The initial eligibility requirements for first time applicants for the federally funded Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program include the following:

- The applicant must be younger than age 21.
- The applicant must be a U.S. citizen or qualified noncitizen.
- The applicant must be enrolled in or attending a postsecondary education or training program at an institution of higher education as defined by Federal law.

In addition, an applicant for ETV must have been one of the following:

- In foster care on or after his or her 14th birthday and otherwise eligible for services under the Chafee program

- Adopted or entered kinship guardianship from foster care at age 16 or older
- A juvenile delinquent in the custody of OCFS placed in a nonsecure OCFS-operated facility of 25 beds or fewer (in other words, a youth who is placed in a facility that would allow the youth to be eligible for title IV-E funding); or on aftercare status

If an applicant has previously been determined to be eligible to receive an ETV award, and would like to continue to receive such award, the applicant must reapply annually and demonstrate eligibility to continue receiving an ETV award. In no event may a youth participate in the ETV program for more than 5 years, whether those years are consecutive.

To continue to receive an ETV award, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- An applicant must have been previously determined to be eligible based on the criteria described above.
- An applicant must show satisfactory progress toward the completion of the educational or vocational program.
- An applicant must be younger than age 23.

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: Educ. Law § 6456; OCFS Info. Ltr. # 19-OCFS-LCM-08; 20-OCFS-INF-05

Subject to an appropriation, the commissioner of the Department of Education shall allocate the funds available for the Foster Youth College Success initiative for the purpose of providing support services to assist youth in foster care to apply for, enroll in, and succeed in college. Such grants shall be awarded to institutions of the State University of New York and institutions of the City University of New York, and the commissioner shall enter into contracts with degree-granting institutions in New York that are currently funded by the Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program pursuant to § 6451 for the purpose of providing additional services and expenses to expand opportunities for foster youth.

For the purposes of this section, 'foster youth' shall mean students who (i) are an orphan or (ii) are, or have been, either a child or youth in foster care, as such term is defined in § 3234, or ward of the court at any time after their 13th birthday.

Funds made available to institutions under this section shall be spent for the following purposes:

- To provide additional services and expenses to expand opportunities through existing postsecondary opportunity programs at the State University of New York, the City University of New York, and other degree-granting higher education institutions for foster youth
- To provide any necessary supplemental financial aid for foster youth, which may include the cost of tuition and fees, books, transportation, housing, and other expenses as determined by the commissioner to be necessary for such foster youth to attend college
- To provide supplemental housing and meals for foster youth

In policy: Under the Chafee program, eligible youth may receive financial assistance for education, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Financial assistance for textbooks, uniforms, computers, and other educational supplies and materials
- Tuition assistance and scholarships
- Payment for educational preparation and support services (i.e., tutoring), and payment for TASC and other educational tests and application fees
- ETVs for college tuition or vocational education or tuition waiver programs

The ETV program is intended to help youth currently or formerly in foster care make the transition to self-sufficiency by receiving the education and training necessary to obtain employment. The ETV award will be

the lesser of \$5,000 or the total cost of attendance, minus any other financial resources (e.g., Pell Grant and scholarships) available to the youth.

NORTH CAROLINA

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

This issue is not addressed in the statutes and regulations reviewed.

Planning for Postsecondary Education

Citation: Admin. Code Tit. 10A, § 72.0102

'Case-management services' are a set of services provided to participating students and their families, which are designed to support the student's postsecondary education experience. Such services include the following:

- Processing and accepting applications for the program
- Certifying each eligible student and the amount of the eligible student's scholarship and communicating this information to the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority to authorize release of funds
- Compiling accurate databases of resources in the students' academic communities that can help students succeed in school
- Providing or arranging for counseling regarding academic issues as well as other concerns that may affect the performance of the student
- Communicating with and advising students on academic issues
- Providing contact with students throughout their postsecondary experience
- Responding to students experiencing crisis
- Providing or arranging for emergency housing up to 2 weeks for students who have no place to live when school is out of session
- If allowed by the student, being available to consult with his or her family and staff of the local Department of Social Services regarding the student's postsecondary experiences
- Monitoring grades and the individual's course of study and evaluating progress toward goal achievement
- Maintaining records for each individual student regarding his or her academic progress and assistance provided

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: Gen. Stat. § 115B-2; Admin. Code Tit. 10A, § 72.0102

Persons eligible for a tuition waiver must meet admission and other standards considered appropriate by the educational institution. In addition, the constituent institutions of the University of North Carolina shall accept these persons only on a space-available basis.

In regulation: An 'eligible student' is a student who meets the following criteria:

- Has received a high school diploma or a general educational development (GED) diploma and has not yet reached his or her 26th birthday
- Is pursuing an undergraduate degree, diploma, or certificate at an approved institution as a half-time or full-time student
- Was in the custody of a North Carolina local Department of Social Services on his or her 18th birthday or was adopted from the North Carolina foster care system on or after his or her 12th birthday
- Is making satisfactory academic progress toward completion of the course of undergraduate study

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: Gen. Stat. §§ 115B-2; 115B-5.1; Admin. Code Tit. 10A, §§ 72.0102; 72.0201; 72.0203; 72.0301

The constituent institutions of the University of North Carolina and community colleges, as defined in § 115D-2, shall permit the following persons to attend classes for credit or noncredit purposes without the required payment of tuition: any child, if the child (i) is at least age 17 but not yet age 24; (ii) is a ward of North Carolina or was a ward of the State at the time the child reached age 18; (iii) is a resident of the State; and (iv) is eligible for services under the Chaffee Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program.

The waiver shall only be to the extent that there is any tuition still payable after receipt of other financial aid received by the student.

If a person obtains a tuition waiver and also receives a cash scholarship paid or payable to the institution, from whatever source, the amount of the scholarship shall be applied to the credit of the person in the payment of incidental expenses of the person's attendance at the institution, and any balance, if the terms of the scholarship permit, shall be returned to the student.

In regulation: ETV is the Federal scholarship program funded by the John Chafee Foster Care Independence Act that benefits individuals who were in the custody of the department at or after age 17 or who were adopted or exited to guardianship on or after their 16th birthday.

The Postsecondary Educational Support Scholarship program, also known as NC Reach, was established by section 10.34(a) of Session Law 2007-323. The term 'scholarship' means an award for education awarded to an eligible student under the program.

Subject to availability of funds, a student shall receive a NC Reach scholarship for an academic year if the approved institution at which the student is enrolled or admitted for enrollment determines that the student meets the following requirements:

- Meets the eligibility requirements as set forth in rule 72.0102
- Is a North Carolina resident for tuition purposes under § 116-143.1 and the Residence Manual
- Has complied with the registration requirements of the Military Selective Service Act or is exempt from registration requirements
- Is not in default under any Federal or State loan or grant program

An eligible student shall not receive an NC Reach scholarship for more than a total of 4 academic years, to include the spring and fall terms and summer school.

Students shall apply online for NC Reach through www.ncreach.org. The application shall include the applicant's personal information, education history, financial information, information release agreement, and electronic signature. Eligibility for the program shall be verified by employees of the State Division of Social Services.

An eligible student shall, subject to available funds, receive a scholarship for one or more semesters or quarters, provided that the eligible student's total financial aid, including from the ETV, Pell Grant, and NC Reach Scholarship, does not exceed the total cost of attendance.

NORTH DAKOTA

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

This issue is not addressed in the statutes and regulations reviewed.

Planning for Postsecondary Education

Citation: Cent. Code § 50-06-34

Services under the program must enhance or extend vocational rehabilitation, including transition from education to employment and from secondary education to higher education.

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: Pol. Man. § 624-10-25-15-05

Youth meeting the following criteria will be considered for an Education and Training Voucher (ETV) award:

- Youth who 'aged out' of foster care, were discharged on or after their 18th birthday, or continue in 18+ Continued Care past their 18th birthday, and who have not reached their 26th birthday at the time of application
- Youth who were adopted or entered kinship guardianship from foster care after age 16 but have not reached their 26th birthday
- Youth who are U.S. citizens or qualified noncitizens
- Youth who are or will be enrolled into a program at an accredited or preaccredited college, university, technical, or vocational school
- Youth who agree to be an active participant in the John H. Chafee Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood program while they are receiving ETV funding

ETV award preference will be given to youth who were in foster care for 12 months or more.

Youth participating in the ETV program can remain eligible until they turn age 26, as long as they are enrolled and making satisfactory progress toward completing their postsecondary education or training program.

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: Pol. Man. § 624-10-25-15

The ETV program provides resources specific to meeting the education and training needs of foster care alumni, as follows:

- The total amount of educational aid (including the ETV, loans, scholarships, and grants) may not exceed the cost of attendance.
- The maximum ETV allowable per academic year shall not exceed the lesser of \$5,000 or the total cost of attendance, as defined in § 472 of the Higher Education Act of 1965. 'Academic year' is defined as the fall, spring, and summer semesters (in that order) each year.
- An eligible student may receive ETV funds for a maximum of 5 years. The years do not need to be consecutive.

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

This issue is not addressed in the statutes and regulations reviewed.

Planning for Postsecondary Education

This issue is not addressed in the statutes and regulations reviewed.

Eligibility Requirements

This issue is not addressed in the statutes and regulations reviewed.

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

This issue is not addressed in the statutes and regulations reviewed.

OHIO

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

Citation: Admin. Code § 5101:2-42-19

Independent living services may include academic support, including, but not limited to, the following services:

- Academic counseling
- Preparation for a general educational development (GED) diploma
- Assistance in applying for or studying for a GED exam
- Tutoring
- Help with homework
- Study skills training
- Literacy training
- Help accessing educational resources

Planning for Postsecondary Education

Citation: Admin. Code § 5101:2-42-19

Independent-living services may include postsecondary educational support, including, but not limited to, the following services:

- Classes for test preparation
- Counseling about college
- Information about financial aid and scholarships
- Help completing college or loan applications
- Tutoring while in college

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: Rev. Stat. § 3333.122

Only an Ohio resident who meets both of the following criteria is eligible for a grant awarded under the Ohio College Opportunity Grant Program:

- The resident has an expected family contribution of \$2,190 or less.
- The resident enrolls in an undergraduate program or a nursing diploma program approved by the Board of Nursing at a State-assisted State institution of higher education; at a private, nonprofit institution in this State holding a certificate of authorization; at a career college in this State that holds a certificate of registration from the State Board of Career Colleges and Schools; or at a private institution exempt from regulation, if the program has a certificate of authorization.

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: Rev. Stat. §§ 3333.052; 3333.122

The chancellor of the Department of Higher Education, with the assistance of the Department of Job and Family Services, shall establish the community college acceleration program to enhance financial, academic, and personal support services to students in need of support from local social service agencies. The program shall identify the services and resources available to assist eligible students enrolled in a community college, a State community college, a technical college, or a university branch campus.

The chancellor shall adopt rules to administer the program. The rules shall specify the types of services provided by the program, which may include any of the following:

- Comprehensive and personalized advisement
- Career counseling
- Tutoring
- Tuition waivers
- Financial assistance to defray the costs of transportation and textbooks

The chancellor shall establish and administer a needs-based financial aid grants program based on the U.S. Department of Education's method of determining financial need. The program shall be known as the Ohio College Opportunity Grant Program.

The needs-based financial aid grant shall be paid to the eligible student through the institution in which the student is enrolled. Needs-based financial aid grants shall be provided to an eligible student only as long as the student is making appropriate progress toward a nursing diploma, an associate or bachelor's degree, or completion of a comprehensive transition and postsecondary program. No student shall be eligible to receive a grant for more than 10 semesters, 15 quarters, or the equivalent of 5 academic years. Except as provided below, no grant awarded under this section shall exceed the total State cost of attendance.

The chancellor shall determine the maximum per student award amount for each institution by subtracting the sum of the maximum Pell Grant and maximum expected family contribution amounts, as determined by the chancellor, from the average instructional and general fees charged by the institution.

If a student is enrolled in a 2-year institution of higher education and is eligible for an education and training voucher through the Ohio Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program that receives Federal funding under the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program, the amount of a grant awarded under this section may exceed the total State cost of attendance to additionally cover housing costs.

From the [department website](#): The Ohio ETV program provides up to \$5,000 a year in Federal funding for qualified school-related expenses for young people who aged out of foster care or who were adopted after age 16. To qualify, recipients must enroll in a full-time postsecondary education or training program by age 21, continue to be enrolled, and make satisfactory progress. Funding may be used for tuition, room and board, student loan repayment, books and supplies, transportation, and/or other related expenses.

OKLAHOMA

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

This issue is not addressed in the statutes and regulations reviewed.

Planning for Postsecondary Education

This issue is not addressed in the statutes and regulations reviewed.

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: Ann. Stat. Tit. 10A, § 1-9-107; Tit. 70, § 3230; Admin. Code § 340:75-6-110

An individual is eligible to receive services for the transition of the child to a successful adulthood from age 14 until age 18, during the time the individual is in the custody of the department or a federally recognized Indian Tribe and in an out-of-home placement.

Successful adulthood services may continue to age 21, provided the individual is in the custody of the department or a federally recognized Indian Tribe due to abuse or neglect and is in an out-of-home placement at the time of the individual's 18th birthday.

Individuals who are age 16 or older and who have been released from the custody of the Department of Human Services (DHS) or a federally recognized Indian Tribe due to the entry of an adoption decree or guardianship order are eligible to receive successful adulthood services until age 21.

To be eligible for a waiver of tuition for the first semester or other academic unit of postsecondary enrollment, a student shall meet the following criteria:

- Be an individual who, within the past 3 years, has been in the custody of the department for any 9 of the 24 months after the individual's 16th birthday and before the individual's 18th birthday
- Be a resident of this State
- Have graduated within the previous 3 years from a high school accredited by the State Board of Education; the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics; or, upon approval of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, a public high school in a State bordering Oklahoma in which the student enrolled with approval of the State Board of Education; or have completed general educational development (GED) requirements
- Have satisfied admission standards, as determined by the State regents for first-time entering students for the appropriate type of institution
- Have secured admission to, and enrolled in, an institution that is a member of the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education or a postsecondary vocational-technical program

To retain eligibility for a waiver of tuition while pursuing the program of higher learning in which enrolled, the student shall do both of the following:

- Maintain good academic standing and satisfactory academic progress according to standards of the State regents
- Comply with the standards related to maintenance of eligibility as promulgated by the State regents

In regulation: The Independent Living program serves the following individuals:

- Youth age 14 through 17 who are in an out-of-home placement and in DHS legal custody or the custody of a federally recognized Indian Tribe
- Young adults age 18, 19, and 20 years of age to whom either of the following apply:
 - Were in an out-of-home placement while in DHS or Tribal custody on his or her 18th birthday
 - Entered a guardianship or adoption after age 14 to achieve permanency and who have not yet reached his or her 21st birthday
- Young adults age 21 and 22 who on their 21st birthday were participating in the Education and Training Voucher program

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: Ann. Stat. Tit. 70, § 3230

Students who are pursuing studies in this State leading to an associate or baccalaureate degree or who are pursuing studies in a postsecondary vocational-technical program or course offered pursuant to a duly approved cooperative agreement between an area vocational-technical school and an institution of the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, and who are in good academic standing in the institution of higher education or vocational-technical school in which enrolled, shall be eligible for a waiver of either of the following:

- Undergraduate resident tuition at institutions within the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education
- Resident tuition for enrollment in postsecondary programs of the area vocational-technical districts

Students shall be eligible for such waivers up to age 26 or completion of the requirements for a baccalaureate degree, whichever comes first. Students shall be eligible for such waivers up to age 26 or earn a program certificate, whichever comes first.

OREGON

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

Citation: Admin. Rules § 413-030-0430

The range of services available through the department to an eligible child or young adult transitioning to independent living includes educational and vocational training support, such as high school diploma or general educational development preparation, job readiness, and job search assistance and placement programs.

Planning for Postsecondary Education

Citation: Admin. Rules § 413-030-0430

The range of services available through the department to an eligible child or young adult transitioning to independent living includes the following:

- Postsecondary education and academic support
- Education and training grants that provide assistance with the costs of a postsecondary education or training program

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: Ann. Stat. § 350.300; Admin. Rules § 413-030-0410

A 'former foster child' is an individual who, for a total of 6 or more months while between age 14 and 21, was either of the following:

- A ward of the court pursuant to § 419B.100(1)(b)-(e), in the legal custody of the Department of Human Services for out-of-home placement, and not dismissed from care before reaching age 16
- An Indian child subject to the Indian Child Welfare Act, under the jurisdiction of a Tribal court for out-of-home placement, and not dismissed from care before reaching age 16

In regulation: A child, young adult, or former foster child must meet the following eligibility criteria for an Education and Training Voucher (ETV):

- Be adopted or entered a guardianship after September 1, 2015, at age 13 or older through the department
- Be age 16 or older and currently in substitute care through the State or one of the federally recognized Tribes
- Have been dismissed from substitute care after reaching age 16 and had 180 or more cumulative days of substitute care after his or her 14th birthday

The child, young adult, or former foster child may remain eligible until he or she reaches age 26. He or she must be making satisfactory progress in his or her area of study, as determined by the postsecondary institution, in order to continue receiving the grant. The child, young adult, or former foster child may receive the grant for a maximum of 5 years (whether or not the years are consecutive).

The former foster child is only eligible for an ETV when the cost of room and board is not included in calculation of the cost of attendance.

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: Ann. Stat. §§ 350.300; 348.272

A current or former foster child under age 25 who is enrolled in courses totaling 1 or more credit hours at an institution of higher education as an undergraduate student shall have the amount of tuition and all fees levied against the student waived if attending an institution of higher education for purposes of pursuing an initial undergraduate degree.

A student who is a current or former foster child is entitled to a tuition waiver and all fees until the student has received the equivalent of 4 years of undergraduate education. As a condition of receiving a tuition waiver for an academic year, a current or former foster child must complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid for that academic year.

A tuition waiver and all fees may be reduced by the amount of any Federal aid scholarships or grants, an award from the Oregon Opportunity Grant program established under § 348.205, and any other aid received from the institution of higher education. For the purposes of this subsection, 'Federal aid scholarships or grants' does not include Chafee Education and Training Grant vouchers.

In addition to any other scholarships provided by law, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall award scholarships to any individual applying for enrollment or enrolled in an institution of higher education who is a current or former foster child. Scholarships awarded under this section shall be in an amount to be determined by the commission based on the funds that are made available for the awarding year.

If a student who is a current or former foster child continues to remain enrolled in a public university; a community college; or an Oregon-based, regionally accredited independent institution, the student is entitled to apply for renewal of the scholarship until the student has received the equivalent of 4 years of undergraduate education.

The director of the Office of Student Access and Completion may require proof that a student is currently or formerly in foster care.

PENNSYLVANIA

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

Citation: Admin. Code Tit. 55, Part V, Subpt. C, Ch. 3140, Appx. A

Direct services include preparation for a general educational development (GED) degree or higher education.

Planning for Postsecondary Education

This issue is not addressed in the statutes and regulations reviewed.

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: Ann. Stat. Tit. 24, § 26-2602-K(c)

In order to receive a fostering independence waiver under this section, an individual must be a current resident of this Commonwealth and eligible for the Pennsylvania Chafee Education and Training Grant Program under the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-169), as administered by the Department of Human Services, and must have applied for all available Federal and State grants.

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: Ann. Stat. Tit. 24, §§ 26-2602-K; 26-2603-K; 26-2604-K

There is established a fostering independence waiver program for individuals who satisfy the eligibility requirements described in § 26-2602-K above.

Beginning with the fall 2020 semester, each institution of higher education shall award a fostering independence waiver for undergraduate courses at the institution for each eligible individual. The fostering independence waiver shall have subtracted from it the amount of any Federal grants, State grants, or other scholarships or grants the individual receives. An individual shall receive a fostering independence waiver for 5 years, whether or not consecutive, or until the individual reaches age 26, whichever occurs first, provided that the individual remains eligible under the criteria described above.

The Department of Education shall work with the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency as well as the Department of Labor and Industry and the Department of Human Services to ensure that individuals eligible for the program apply for all available Federal and State grants.

The department, in conjunction with the Department of Human Services, shall do all the following:

- By January 1, 2020, and January 1 each year thereafter, prepare and provide information for dissemination by county agencies, the department, the Department of Human Services, and institutions of higher education that does the following:
 - Describes the availability of the program established under this article
 - Explains how to participate in the program
 - Includes information on all available Federal and State grants
- Ensure that eligible individuals who may also be eligible for services and programs under 72 P.S. § 1738-E are informed of these services and programs

Each institution of higher education shall do the following:

- Provide technical assistance to eligible individuals in completing admissions applications and financial aid applications
- Disseminate the information to recipients of a Chafee Education and Training Grant who are eligible individuals and post the information on the institution's publicly accessible internet website

Each institution of higher education shall designate an appropriate staff person or persons as the point of contact (POC) for students eligible for the program. The POC may be comprised of one or more qualified staff members to provide the appropriate support or expertise required for the duties specified in this section. The POC shall have or ensure the delegation of the following duties:

- Assisting students in obtaining verification of eligibility for the program from the courts, the county agency, or the Department of Human Services
- Assisting eligible individuals in accessing available Federal and State financial aid resources and in identifying further scholarship and grant opportunities, in consultation with the institution's financial aid department
- Serving as the primary contact for all individuals applying to or attending the institution who are eligible under § 2602-K(c)
- Providing all individuals applying to or attending the institution who voluntarily disclose that they are eligible under § 2602-K(c) with information and referrals for on-campus support services and resources, including admissions, housing, financial aid, health, mental health, tutoring, career, academic advising, and other services
- Providing all eligible individuals applying to or attending the institution with information and referrals, as available, for off-campus support services, including transitional housing and medical insurance and services
- Posting POC contact information on the institution's publicly accessible internet website

PUERTO RICO

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Planning for Postsecondary Education

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Eligibility Requirements

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

RHODE ISLAND

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

Citation: Gen. Laws § 42-72-5

The director of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) is authorized and empowered to be responsible for the education of all children who are placed, assigned, or otherwise accommodated for residence by DCYF in a State-operated or State-supported community residence licensed by a Rhode Island State agency. In fulfilling this responsibility, DCYF is authorized to enroll and pay for the education of students in the public schools or, when necessary and appropriate, to provide education itself in accordance with the regulations of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education, either directly or through contract.

Planning for Postsecondary Education

This issue is not addressed in the statutes and regulations reviewed.

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: Gen. Laws § 42-72.8-2

DCYF shall make recommendations for Higher Education Opportunity Incentive grant awards from among those youth who meet the following criteria:

- Have not yet reached age 18 on the day of recommendation, are in the legal custody of DCYF on the day of recommendation, and have remained in such custody for at least 24 months prior to the day of recommendation
- For youth formerly in foster care, have reached age 18 prior to the date of recommendation, have not yet reached age 21, and were in the custody of DCYF from their 16th to their 18th birthdays
- Have graduated from high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma not more than 1 year prior to the date of recommendation
- Have not reached their 21st birthday

A youth who is participating in this program on the date before his or her 21st birthday may remain eligible until his or her 23rd birthday, as long as he or she continues to be considered a full-time student by the Community College of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, or the University of Rhode Island and is making satisfactory progress, as determined by the school in which he or she is enrolled, toward completion of his or her degree program.

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: Gen. Laws §§ 42-72-5; 42-72.8-1; 42-72.8-2; 42-72.8-3

The DCYF director is authorized and empowered to administer funds under the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence and Education and Training Voucher (ETV) programs and the DCYF Higher Education Opportunity Grant Program, as outlined in title 42, chapter 72.8, in accordance with rules and regulations as promulgated by the DCYF director.

There are many children in the custody of DCYF who have been in such custody for several years and who have no family resources or whose family has limited ability to provide funds for postsecondary education. To afford such youth opportunity comparable to children not in State custody, there is hereby created the DCYF Higher Education Opportunity Incentive Grant Program. Through an appropriation from the general assembly, a grant fund shall be established in DCYF to supplement financial assistance in the form of grants and scholarships that are available to such youth.

Each year, DCYF shall identify and recommend from among youth in its legal custody, or who were in DCYF legal custody on their 18th birthday, those students who may be eligible to apply for a Higher Education Opportunity Incentive Grant. Each selected applicant will receive grants to supplement Federal, State, and institutional scholarships, grants, and loans awarded to the applicant in an amount not to exceed the full cost of tuition, fees, and room and board charges.

A grant period shall be limited to 2 years of full-time study at the Community College of Rhode Island or 4 years of full-time study at Rhode Island College and the University of Rhode Island. In no instance shall the grant period exceed a period of 4 years. Grant recipients shall be enrolled full-time and shall continue to make satisfactory progress toward an academic certificate or degree, as determined by the school in which they are enrolled.

Grant awards shall be made on the basis of scholastic record, aptitude, financial need, and general interest in higher education. Recipients must comply with all application deadlines and criteria for admission to the institution to which the recipient is making application and, further, the recipient must have been granted admission by the admissions office of the institution.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

Citation: Code of Regs., § 114-595; DSS Pol. & Proc. Man. Ch. 5, § 530; DSS Chafee Guidelines

Educational services shall begin with informal and formal assessments of skills, learning styles, aptitudes, and abilities and should lead to the appropriate resource (e.g., public or private secondary or postsecondary education, remedial classes, or other vocational education/training).

In policy: Chafee program services shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Assistance in obtaining a high school diploma
- Career exploration
- Vocational training
- Job placement and retention

From the [guidelines](#): An adult education program helps youth to attain a high school degree or its equivalent. Youth also may receive funding assistance to complete supplemental coursework to achieve goals. Examples of adult education items include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Cost and materials for a general educational development (GED) program
- Tutoring for GED
- Study skills training
- Alternative educational programs
- Vocational coursework

Services and supplies needed to meet a youth's educational goals include the following:

- Tutoring
- Summer school for advanced studies and/or academic credits
- Books and supplies for specialized classes, such as lab fees; special calculators; uniforms for classes such as cosmetology, nursing, etc.; and insurance for school-issued equipment

- Expenses for school-sponsored educational field trips
- Senior expenses, including the following:
 - Senior prom ticket, attire, pictures, and personal care services
 - Senior fees, including graduation invitations, cap and gown, yearbook, diploma plaque, high school senior ring, or dog tag
 - Senior pictures

Planning for Postsecondary Education

Citation: DSS Pol. & Proc. Man. Ch. 5, § 530

Chafee program services shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Preparation and assistance for postsecondary training and/or education
- Provision of Education and Training Vouchers (ETVs)

The caseworker shall refer youth in foster care who are interested in attending college to school guidance staff for assistance with the following:

- Participating in American College Test (ACT)/Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) preparation classes or courses
- Deciding whether and when to take the ACT or the SAT
- Learning how to apply for multiple grants and scholarships

The caseworker shall explore special State need-based grants that give priority to youth in foster care. HOPE scholarships are available to students who graduate with a B average but do not have the test scores or class rank for other scholarships. Other resources for talented youth in foster care who qualify include LIFE (Legislative Incentives for Future Excellence) scholarships and Palmetto Fellows scholarships.

Youth shall be encouraged to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form, either online or at school, as early as possible. The youth should also obtain copies of the financial aid print-out and the desired school's billing statement and maximum financial aid award.

The caseworker shall assess the future financial needs and living arrangements of the youth. In collaboration with State program staff, the caseworker shall review all grants, scholarships, and loans that the youth has been officially awarded. On a case-by-case basis, a determination will be made as to the availability and amount of Chafee and ETV program funds and whether a board payment can be accessed.

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: Code of Regs. § 62-465; DSS Pol. & Proc. Man. Ch. 5, § 530

To be eligible for a South Carolina Need-Based Grant each academic year, the student must meet the following requirements:

- Be a 'needy student' following a financial need analysis, as established under title IV regulations for determining eligibility for Federal student aid
- File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form
- Be a U.S. citizen or a lawful permanent resident that meets the definition of an eligible noncitizen whose lawful presence in the United States has been verified at the time of enrollment at the institution
- Be a resident of the State of South Carolina for 12 consecutive months
- Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a part-time or full-time degree-seeking student in an eligible program of study at an eligible public institution in South Carolina
- Be enrolled and attending or have completed at the time of the grant disbursement in a minimum of 6 credit hours, if part-time for the semester, or 12 credit hours, if full-time for the semester

- Certify that he or she has not been adjudicated delinquent or been convicted or pled guilty or nolo contendere to any felonies or any second or subsequent alcohol or drug-related offenses under the laws of this or any other State or under the laws of the United States
- Verify that he or she does not owe a refund or repayment on a State grant, a Pell Grant, or a Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant and is not in default on a loan under the Federal Perkins Loan or Federal Stafford Loan Programs
- Reapply for the Need-Based Grant each academic year and meet all eligibility requirements annually

Students who have previously earned credit hours and are applying for the South Carolina Need-Based Grant for the first time must have earned at least a cumulative 2.0 grade-point average on a 4.0 scale for graduation purposes at the end of the academic year before being awarded the grant.

Students enrolled part-time or full-time may not receive a Need-Based Grant for more than a maximum of eight full-time equivalent semesters. Students may only receive Need-Based Grant funding for up to two semesters of the academic year. Students who have already been awarded their first baccalaureate degree are not eligible to receive a Need-Based Grant.

In policy: Chafee program services shall be provided to the following:

- All youth in foster care from age 14 up to the 21st birthday
- All young adults age 18 to 21 who reached the age of majority in foster care, including those in aftercare placement and those out of care
- Youth who are currently in adoption preservation placement
- Youth who left foster care due to reunification at or after their 14th birthday who have been in care for at least 6 months
- Youth who left foster care due to adoption, kinship care, or guardianship at or after their 16th birthday who have been in care for at least 6 months

ETV funds are available for youth/young adults in all Chafee program-eligible categories above up to the recipient's 26th birthday as long as the youth/young adult is enrolled in a postsecondary education or training program and is making satisfactory progress toward completion of that program. In no event may an ETV recipient participate in the program for more than 5 years (whether or not the years are consecutive).

Youth must have entered foster care as a result of an allegation of abuse or neglect. The case causing the youth's removal must have resulted in a finding of abuse or neglect on its merits. While in foster care, youth are eligible for services, but if the case is not founded before the youth's 18th birthday (or eligible age for those who obtain positive permanency), such youth are not eligible for Chafee program-funded services.

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: Code of Regs. § 62-470; DSS Pol. & Proc. Man. Ch. 5, § 530

The Need-Based Grants Program for the public institutions will be campus-administered. Grant funds will supplement the student financial aid awards administered by the participating public colleges and universities.

The participating institution will make awards in amounts to be defined in accordance with the Need-Based Grants Program regulation and criteria, but not to exceed \$1,250 per eligible part-time student and \$2,500 per eligible full-time student per academic year, based on the institution's allocated funds for Need-Based Grants and other financial aid awarded to individual applicants. A maximum of 50 percent of the grant shall be disbursed for two terms of the academic year, assuming continued eligibility.

Need-Based Grants are to be used only toward payment for the cost-of-attendance, as defined by title IV regulations, for the academic year for which the award is made at the designated institution. The maximum amount awarded shall not exceed the cost-of-attendance for any year.

In determining the amount awarded for the Need-Based Grant, all other sources of gift aid, including Federal, State, private, and institutional funds, must be applied to the total cost-of-attendance before calculating the unmet need and awarding the grant. The Need-Based Grant shall be awarded only after all other sources of gift aid have been exhausted. Adjustments to the financial aid package will be made to the Need-Based Grant in accordance with prescribed title IV regulations in order to prevent an over-award.

Institutions must give first priority and award the maximum allowable Need-Based Grant (\$2,500 if full-time or \$1,250 if part-time) to students who are in the custody of the South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS). However, institutions should not award the maximum amount if, by doing so, this causes the student to exceed the unmet need according to title IV regulations. Students who may be eligible under this provision are responsible for contacting the institution and providing official verification to the institution that he/she is in custody of DSS. Acceptable verification shall include a letter from DSS.

In policy: Youth may be able to receive federally funded ETV funds up to a maximum of \$5,000 per year, as long as funds are available. The awarding of ETV funds depends on the cost of the school and the amount of grants/scholarships the youth receives. The award is to be applied to all costs associated with the cost of attendance but (when combined with the youth's other funds) may not exceed the cost of attendance.

If a youth does not use all the ETV funds during the fall or spring semesters, the remaining amount can be used for summer school.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

This issue is not addressed in the statutes and regulations reviewed.

Planning for Postsecondary Education

This issue is not addressed in the statutes and regulations reviewed.

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: Dept. of Soc. Ser. Website

From the Department of Social Services [website](#): Youth currently and formerly in foster care eligible for independent-living program services are eligible for Education and Training Voucher (ETV) funds. To receive ETV funds, a youth must meet the following criteria:

- Have a high school diploma, general educational development (GED) certificate of completion, or the equivalent
- Be enrolled in or accepted to a postsecondary or vocational school program
- Be making satisfactory progress, with a minimum of a 2.0 grade-point average (GPA) if the youth is currently in a postsecondary or vocational school program and provides a copy of a transcript verifying his or her GPA
- Have been adopted or entered kinship guardianship at age 16 or older or was in an out-of-home placement and left foster care at age 18 or older

To be considered for ETV funding, an application must be completed. When an application is submitted, all school and training expenses are considered. The youth must submit the following documents with the application:

- A one-page essay describing the youth's qualifications for a scholarship based on academic performance, financial need, and plan for education
- A copy of the acceptance letter from the college or vocational school
- A letter of support from a child protection services (CPS) family services specialist, other representative if foster care placement was through an agency other than CPS, or adoptive or guardian parent
- Scholastic Aptitude Test, American Collegiate Test, or Test of Adult Basic Education test scores, as required by the school
- A copy of the Free Application for Student Financial Assistance, if appropriate
- A 'cost-of-attendance' form completed and signed by the financial aid officer

If approved for funding, the youth must reapply every semester. Requirements include the following:

- A transcript of the prior semester's grades
- A minimum 2.0 GPA
- If the program does not use grades to document progress, a letter from the program verifying that the youth is making satisfactory progress
- A letter describing how the money was used and why continued financial assistance is needed

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: Dept. of Soc. Ser. Website

The ETV program provides funding to assist youth with continuing education and training after high school or obtaining a GED certificate. ETV funds are financial assistance grants that can aid youth in achieving their goals and successful independence through education and training. If eligible, a youth in foster care could receive up to \$5,000 a year to attend college or vocational school or to learn a trade.

ETV funds can be used to help pay for the following:

- Tuition and fees
- Books and supplies
- Room and board
- Tools and uniforms
- Tutoring
- Parking permits
- Meal plans
- Transportation costs
- Employment-related necessities
- Child care

TENNESSEE

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

Citation: IL Serv. Man.

Life skills instruction may include assistance with developing an appropriate education plan, completing secondary education, and accessing resources for postsecondary or vocational programs.

Planning for Postsecondary Education

Citation: IL Proc. Man.

It is recommended that youth and young adults receive assistance from supportive adults in preparation for submitting applications for Education and Training Vouchers (ETVs) and/or the State-funded scholarship. Supportive adults include, but are not limited to, resource parents, birth parents, relatives, mentors, teachers, and Department of Children's Services (DCS) staff. Caseworkers or other designated staff must provide this assistance for youth and young adults in State custody or receiving extension-of-foster-care-services status. Assistance must be rendered to help youth and young adults with the following:

- Receiving recommendations regarding the youth's postsecondary educational options from high school guidance counselors, when applicable, to ensure the appropriateness and feasibility of program choices
- Obtaining information about specific postsecondary educational institutions that the youth may be interested in and review such information with the youth to facilitate an informed decision
- Visiting the postsecondary programs in advance of enrollment
- Applying for Federal and State financial aid awards by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) annually
- Identifying and applying for privately endowed grants and scholarships

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: Ann. Code § 49-4-933; DCS Admin. Pol. & Proc. Ch. 16A, § 16.53; IL Proc. Man

To be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE foster child tuition grant, a student must meet the following criteria:

- Not be ineligible for the grant under § 49-4-904
- Meet the eligibility requirements of § 49-4-905
- Meet the applicable academic requirements for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship or Tennessee HOPE access grant that apply to the method by which the student completed high school
- Apply for a Tennessee HOPE foster child tuition grant and file a FAFSA
- Be admitted to and enroll in an eligible postsecondary institution

This section shall apply to a student to whom any of the following are true:

- Was in State custody for at least 1 year after reaching age 14
- Was in State custody for at least 1 year after reaching age 14 and was placed for adoption by DCS or one of its adoption contract agencies, and the adoption was finalized
- Was in State custody for at least 1 year and was placed in permanent guardianship by the department after reaching age 14

The student shall present the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation with official certification from the department that the student meets the eligibility requirements listed above for the tuition grant.

In policy: The following persons may be eligible for ETVs:

- Young adults who emancipated to adulthood directly from State custody at or after age 18
- Youth age 16 or older in DCS custody
- Youth age 16 or older who exit DCS custody through adoption or subsidized permanent guardianship
- Young adults adjudicated delinquent (except for youth housed in secured facilities upon reaching age 18)

To maintain eligibility for ETVs, the young adult must meet the following requirements:

- Maintain enrollment in an eligible postsecondary program
- Maintain a cumulative grade-point average of 2.0 or higher per semester

Youth and young adults eligible for ETVs also are eligible for the Bright Futures scholarship, with the exception that applicants for the Bright Futures scholarship may have personal assets of no more than \$10,000. The accessibility of certain services rendered directly by DCS varies based on the availability of funding. In such cases, similar services may need to be explored through other available resources. However, ETVs and the Bright Futures scholarship cannot be provided during the same term. The award may be provided to otherwise-eligible applicants starting after age 21 and extended to their 24th birthday.

From the [IL Procedures Manual](#): All youth or young adults who meet eligibility criteria outlined above must complete an application and complete and sign at least one copy of the form authorizing the release of personal information. In addition, the following must be included with the initial application:

- The acceptance letter from the postsecondary educational or vocational training program
- A copy of the applicant's high school or general educational development diploma
- A copy of the applicant's American College Test or Scholastic Aptitude Test scores, if applying to a program that requires them
- A copy of the FAFSA Student Aid Report applicable to the financial aid year

Returning students must include the following with each application:

- A copy of the FAFSA Student Aid Report applicable to the financial aid year or other verification of financial aid application
- The grade or progress report for the previous semester or term

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: *Ann. Code § 49-4-933; DCS Admin. Pol. & Proc. Tit. 16A, § 16.53*

The student shall be eligible for the Tennessee HOPE foster child tuition grant as follows:

- For entrance to an eligible postsecondary institution for a period of no more than 4 years after the date of graduation from high school or its equivalent
- For a period of 6 years after admittance to an eligible postsecondary institution, if satisfactory progress is achieved and maintained

The Tennessee HOPE foster child tuition grant shall be the cost of attendance less any gift aid, with the total HOPE foster child tuition grant amount not to exceed the cost of tuition and mandatory fees at the eligible postsecondary institution attended. Additionally, at an eligible independent postsecondary institution, the Tennessee HOPE foster child tuition grant shall not exceed the statewide average public tuition and mandatory fee rate for the type of institution, 2-year or 4-year, attended.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to do either of the following:

- Guarantee acceptance by or entrance into any eligible postsecondary institution for youth in, or formerly in, the custody of the State
- Limit the participation of a youth in, or formerly in, the custody of the State in any other program of financial assistance for postsecondary education

In policy: Young adults ages 18 to 21 receiving extension of foster care services may receive an ETV and an independent-living allowance to assist with expenses related to independent living and postsecondary education and training opportunities. ETVs are only utilized to fund expenses for eligible postsecondary institutions. The DCS scholarship coordinator can be contacted to verify the eligibility of a chosen program. The total annual allocation of ETVs per youth/young adult cannot exceed \$5,000.

ETVs may be granted to eligible youth and young adults up to their 21st birthday. Young adults who received ETVs before achieving their 21st birthday may continue receiving ETV assistance up to their 23rd birthday, if they are making satisfactory progress in their educational or training program at age 21.

The Bright Futures scholarship is administered by the DCS Office of Interdependent Living that utilizes DCS funds to promote access to higher education and increase opportunities to defray the high cost of postsecondary education to eligible youth. This scholarship can only be used to attend a Tennessee State educational institution. Priority is given to eligible youth who do not meet criteria for DCS' Chafee ETV program.

TEXAS

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

Citation: Educ. Code §§ 25.007; 33.007

In recognition of the challenges faced by students who are homeless or in substitute care, the Texas Education Agency shall assist the transition of students who are homeless or in substitute care from one school to another by doing the following:

- Developing procedures for awarding credit, including partial credit if appropriate, for course work, including electives, completed by the student while enrolled at another school
- Promoting practices that facilitate access by the student to extracurricular programs, summer programs, credit transfer services, electronic courses, and after-school tutoring programs at nominal or no cost
- Establishing procedures to lessen the adverse impact of the movement of the student to a new school
- Entering into a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) regarding the exchange of information, as appropriate, to facilitate the transition of students in substitute care from one school to another
- Developing procedures for allowing the student who was previously enrolled in a course required for graduation the opportunity, to the extent practicable, to complete the course, at no cost to the student, before the beginning of the next school year
- Ensuring that the student who is not likely to receive a high school diploma before the fifth school year following the student's enrollment in grade 9, as determined by the district, has the student's course credit accrual and personal graduation plan reviewed
- Designating at least one agency employee to act as a liaison officer regarding educational issues related to students in the conservatorship of DFPS
- Providing other assistance, as identified by the agency

Each school counselor at an elementary, middle, or junior high school shall advise students and their parents or guardians regarding the importance of postsecondary education, coursework designed to prepare students for postsecondary education, and financial aid availability and requirements. The information provided must include a discussion of the disadvantages of taking courses to prepare for a high school equivalency examination relative to the benefits of taking courses leading to a high school diploma.

Planning for Postsecondary Education

Citation: Educ. Code §§ 25.007; 33.007; 51.9356; Fam. Code § 264.1212

The agency shall assist students who are homeless or in substitute care by doing the following:

- Encouraging school districts and open-enrollment charter schools to provide services for a student who is homeless or in substitute care in transition when applying for admission to postsecondary study and when seeking sources of funding for postsecondary study
- Ensuring that a student in substitute care who is in grade 11 or 12 be provided information regarding tuition and fee exemptions under § 54.366 for dual-credit or other courses provided by a public institution of higher education for which a high school student may earn joint high school and college credit

Each school counselor at an elementary, middle, or junior high school shall advise students and their parents or guardians regarding the importance of postsecondary education, coursework designed to prepare students for postsecondary education, and financial aid availability and requirements. The information provided must include the following:

- The importance of postsecondary education
- Financial aid eligibility
- Instruction on how to apply for Federal financial aid
- The availability of Education and Training Vouchers (ETVs) and tuition and fee waivers to attend an institution of higher education, as provided by § 54.366, for a student who is or was previously in the conservatorship of DFPS

Each institution of higher education shall designate at least one employee of the institution to act as a liaison officer for current and incoming students at the institution who are or were formerly in the conservatorship of the DFPS. To the extent allowed by State or Federal law, the institution shall identify those students from information provided to the institution in admission or financial aid applications or other available resources.

The liaison officer shall provide the students with information regarding support services and other resources available to the students at the institution and any other relevant information to assist the students.

Each school district, in coordination with DFPS, shall facilitate the transition of each child enrolled in the district who is eligible for a tuition and fee waiver under § 54.366, Education Code, and who is likely to be in the conservatorship of DFPS on the day preceding the child's 18th birthday, to an institution of higher education by doing the following:

- Assisting the child with the completion of any applications for admission or for financial aid
- Arranging and accompanying the child on campus visits
- Assisting the child in researching and applying for private or institution-sponsored scholarships
- Identifying whether the child is a candidate for appointment to a military academy
- Assisting the child in registering and preparing for college entrance examinations, including, subject to the availability of funds, arranging for the payment of any examination fees by DFPS
- Coordinating contact between the child and a liaison officer for students who were formerly in DFPS's conservatorship

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: Admin. Code Tit. 40, §§ 700.1613; 1615; 1621; 1630

Youth in one of the following categories can be eligible to participate in the ETV program:

- Is at least age 16 and likely to remain in foster care until age 18
- Is not yet age 21 but aged out of foster care

- Is not yet age 21 and was adopted or exited to the permanency care assistance program from foster care after turning age 16

If a student is already participating in the ETV program when turning age 21, the student may remain eligible for assistance until age 23, as long as the student is making satisfactory progress toward completion of postsecondary education or vocational training, as defined by the institution the student is attending.

To qualify for financial assistance under the ETV program, an eligible youth must meet the following criteria:

- Have a high school diploma or the equivalent
- Be enrolled in an institution of higher education that falls within one of the following categories:
 - An accredited or preaccredited public or nonprofit institution that provides a bachelor's degree or not less than a 2-year program that provides credit toward a degree or certification
 - An accredited or preaccredited public or nonprofit institution that provides not less than a 1-year program of training to prepare students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation
 - An accredited or preaccredited public, nonprofit, or a private institution that has been in existence for at least 2 years and that provides a program of training to prepare students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation
- Complete and file an application and required documentation with the ETV coordinator

To remain eligible for the ETV program, the student must do the following:

- Maintain satisfactory progress toward completion of postsecondary education or vocational training, as defined by the institution the student is attending
- Submit documentation to establish that minimum enrollment requirements are met and that satisfactory progress is being made

The following populations are eligible for the Texas Tuition and Fee Waiver, regardless of whether or not parental rights are terminated:

- Youth age 14 or older who are in DFPS' permanent managing conservatorship on or after the effective date of this rule, and who subsequently exit conservatorship to the legal responsibility of a parent
- Youth age 16 or older who are in DFPS' temporary managing conservatorship on or after the effective date of this rule, and who subsequently exit conservatorship to the legal responsibility of a parent

If, after exiting the foster care system, the youth returns to DFPS conservatorship, the youth's eligibility will be based on his or her current foster care circumstances.

The student must enroll in an institution of higher education no later than the student's 25th birthday to receive the waiver. The student must meet any other applicable statutory requirement concerning the waiver for students exempted by Texas Education Code § 54.366.

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: Educ. Code §§ 54.366; 54.367; Admin. Code Tit. 40, §§ 700.1611; 1617; 1619

A student is exempt from the payment of tuition and fees charged by an institution of higher education if the student meets the following criteria:

- The student was under the conservatorship of DFPS, as follows:
 - On the day preceding the student's 18th birthday
 - On or after the day of the student's 14th birthday, if the student was also eligible for adoption on or after that day
 - On the day the student graduated from high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma
 - On the day preceding the date the student is adopted or permanent managing conservatorship of the

student is awarded to a person other than the student's parent, if that date is on or after September 1, 2009

- During an academic term in which the student was enrolled in a dual-credit course or other course for which a high school student may earn joint high school and college credit
- The student enrolls in an institution of higher education as an undergraduate student or in a dual-credit course or other course for which a high school student may earn joint high school and college credit no later than the student's 25th birthday.

A student is exempt from the payment of tuition and fees if the student was adopted and was the subject of an adoption assistance agreement that provided monthly payments and medical assistance benefits that was not limited to providing only for the reimbursement of nonrecurring legal expenses.

In regulation: The ETV program provides financial assistance to eligible youth who were formerly or and currently in foster care in order to support their pursuit of postsecondary education or vocational training. The total annual amount of financial assistance that an eligible youth may receive from the ETV program is determined by the following criteria:

- The amount of financial assistance is limited to the lesser of \$5,000 or the total cost of attendance.
- The amount of educational assistance to a student under the ETV program and any other Federal or federally supported program must not exceed the total cost of attendance.
- Financial assistance provided under the ETV program cannot duplicate benefits provided under any other Federal or federally supported program.
- If a student is eligible for the State exemption from payment of tuition and fees and is attending an institution where that exemption applies, the student may not receive financial assistance under the ETV program for the cost of tuition and fees.

ETV funds can be used to pay for the cost of attendance, which includes the following:

- Tuition and fees (for schools/programs that do not qualify for the State tuition/fee waiver)
- Rental or purchase of required equipment, materials, books, supplies, or computer
- Room and board allowance
- Reasonable costs associated with child care for a student's dependents
- Costs associated with special study projects, such as field work or an internship
- Reasonable transportation and personal expenses associated with school/program attendance
- Required special services for students who have a disability

UTAH

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

Citation: DCFS Prac. Guidelines §§ 303.7.1; 303.7.2

From the [practice guidelines](#): Academic supports and counseling include the following:

- Preparation for a general educational development (GED) diploma, including assistance in applying for or studying for a GED exam
- Test preparation for the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) or American College Test (ACT)
- Tutoring
- Help with homework
- Literacy training
- Graduation expenses

Transitional support funds will be individualized to cover unique needs and focus on short- and long-term needs that will assist a youth to become a successful adult. Examples of appropriate use of these funds include field trips, college visits, incentives, graduation expenses, tutors, and ACT/SAT testing.

Planning for Postsecondary Education

Citation: DCFS Prac. Guidelines § 303.71

Academic supports and counseling include the following:

- Help accessing educational resources
- Counseling about college
- College visits
- ACT/SAT testing
- Information about financial aid and scholarships
- Help completing college or loan applications
- Tutoring while in college

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: Ann. Code §§ 53B-8d-102; 53B-8d-103; Admin. Code R512-306-3

A 'ward of the State' means an individual who meets the following criteria:

- Is a person who is at least age 17 and not older than age 26
- Is a person who had a permanency goal of long-term foster care while in the custody of the Division of Child and Family Services
- Is a person for whom the custody of the division was not terminated as a result of adoption

A State institution of higher education shall waive tuition for each ward of the State who meets the following requirements:

- Applies, qualifies, and is admitted as a full-time, part-time, or summer school student in a program of study leading to a degree or certificate
- Is a resident student of the State
- Applies to the division for a waiver of tuition and provides evidence satisfactory to the division that the applicant was in the custody of the division for an aggregate period of no less than 24 months
- Applies for the first time before age 22
- Is certified by the financial aid officer at the higher education institution as needing the tuition waiver in order to meet recognized educational expenses
- Maintains satisfactory academic progress, as defined by the institution of higher education, for each term or semester in which the individual is enrolled
- Has not achieved a bachelor's degree and has received tuition reimbursement for less than 124 semester credits or 180 quarter credits at an institution of higher education

In regulation: To be eligible for the federally funded Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program, an individual must meet the following requirements:

- Is in out-of-home care and has not yet reached age 26
- Is no longer in out-of-home care but reached age 18 while in out-of-home care and has not yet reached age 26
- Was adopted or entered guardianship from out-of-home care after reaching age 16 and who is not yet age 26
- Has an individual educational assessment and individual education plan completed by the division
- Submits a completed application for the ETV program

- Has applied for or been accepted to a qualified college, university, or vocational program
- Applies for available financial aid from other sources before obtaining funding from the ETV program
- Enrolls as a full-time or part-time student in the college, university, or vocational program
- Maintains a 2.0 cumulative grade-point average on a 4.0 scale or equivalent, as determined by the educational institution

The individual may participate in the ETV program until any of the following occur:

- The individual completes the degree or vocational program.
- The individual reaches age 26.
- The individual has completed a maximum of 5 years in the ETV program.

The individual must provide ongoing documentation of full-time or part-time enrollment, satisfactory progress as detailed in the individual education plan, additional requests for funding, and any changes in total costs for attendance or other financial aid to the division in order to continue receiving benefits under the program.

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: Ann. Code §§ 53B-8d-103; 53B-8d-104; Admin. Code R512-306-3

A ward of the State is eligible for a tuition waiver under this section of not more than nine semesters.

Tuition shall be waived under the following conditions:

- After the individual has applied for financial assistance, including scholarships and Pell Grants
- Only to the extent that the tuition is not covered or paid by any scholarship, trust fund, statutory benefit, Pell Grant, or any other source of tuition coverage available for a waiver

An institution of higher education shall waive tuition only for courses that are applicable toward the degree or certificate requirements of the program in which the student is enrolled.

Upon receiving an application, the division shall determine whether the applicant and the courses for which tuition waiver is sought meet the requirements of § 53B-8d-103 and, if so, shall approve the application and notify the higher education institution that the application has been approved.

The division shall reimburse the State's institutions of higher education for any tuition waived under this chapter.

In regulation: An individual may receive vouchers up to a maximum amount of \$5,000 per year through the ETV program. Amounts are determined by the cost of tuition at specific educational institutions and enrollment status. The total amount awarded may not exceed the total cost of attendance, minus expected contributions from the individual's family and estimated financial assistance from other State or Federal grants or programs.

VERMONT

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

Citation: Code of Rules § 13-172-700; Fam. Serv. Div. Pol., Policy #160

The program for completion of secondary education for youth who reach their 18th birthday while in the custody of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) provides support for eligible youth in completing secondary education and in making a smooth transition to independent living by continuing the case plan and services that were in place when the youth turned age 18.

In [policy](#): High school graduation is an important outcome for youth exiting foster care. For many reasons, including placement changes while in foster care, many youth are not able to graduate high school prior to age 18. An agreement for the completion of secondary education supports youth to remain in care while completing high school and achieving the goals of the case plan. DCF shall provide substitute care payments for the youth in approved living arrangements at the same rate paid before the youth turned age 18. Youth that are over age 18 are legal adults and no longer in DCF custody but are voluntarily choosing to remain in care while pursuing their high school diplomas. If youth choose to stop attending school or following through with other parts of the case plan, caseworkers shall convene a meeting with the youth and team members to determine if the agreement can continue as written, needs modification, or should be terminated. Per regulations, youth who withdraw or are terminated from this program may apply for reentry up to age 23.

Planning for Postsecondary Education

Citation: Fam. Serv. Div. Pol., Policy #160

The Youth Development Program supports youth currently and formerly in foster care with preparing for and entering postsecondary training and educational institutions.

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: Code of Rules § 13-172-700

To be eligible to enter the program for completion of secondary education, a youth must meet the following criteria:

- Have reached his or her 18th birthday while in the custody of DCF
- Attend an educational or vocational program
- Voluntarily consent to participate in the program and sign a voluntary services agreement

To remain eligible for the program, a youth must continue to attend an educational or vocational program by maintaining school attendance and passing grades that will allow for graduation. If the educational or vocational program has been completed, the youth may be involved in a transition plan consistent with productive time requirements for a period not to exceed 6 months.

If the youth has completed the educational program and continues in the transition phase of the program, the youth shall participate in 40 hours per week of productive time, including one or more of the following activities:

- Postsecondary education
- Employment
- Community involvement
- Job search
- Therapeutic activities
- Other activities articulated in the youth's voluntary services agreement

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: Ann. Stat. Tit 16, § 2845

The Board of Directors of the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation shall establish a trust fund to be used to provide grants for students who do not have parental support and are or have been under the custody of the DCF commissioner.

A child who is under the custody of the commissioner or a young adult between age 18 and 24 who was under the custody of the commissioner for at least 6 months when that person was between age 16 and 18, and who is accepted for degree study at the Vermont State Colleges, the University of Vermont, or a Vermont independent college, is eligible for an annual grant under this section, to the extent that funds are available in the trust fund.

Upon certification by the Vermont State Colleges, the University of Vermont, or a Vermont independent college that a Vermont resident student who is eligible has matriculated in a degree program at a Vermont college or university, the student may receive a grant if the student's financial aid eligibility leaves remaining financial need following the student and the family contributions, if any, and the availability of all other sources of gift aid. Each grant, together with the student and the family contributions, if any, and all other sources of gift aid, shall not exceed the full cost of tuition, fees, room, and board, and no individual annual grant may exceed \$3,000. The board may prorate the funds appropriated for use under this section where the collective need of the eligible applicants exceeds the funds appropriated. In addition, the board may prorate a grant based on a student's full- or part-time enrollment status.

A person may receive a grant for each of up to 6 consecutive years. A young adult who receives a grant prior to reaching age 25 shall continue to be eligible for grants until 6 years from the date of matriculation or until he or she has obtained an undergraduate degree, whichever comes first.

VIRGIN ISLANDS

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

This issue is not addressed in the statutes and regulations reviewed.

Planning for Postsecondary Education

This issue is not addressed in the statutes and regulations reviewed.

Eligibility Requirements

This issue is not addressed in the statutes and regulations reviewed.

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

This issue is not addressed in the statutes and regulations reviewed.

VIRGINIA

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

Citation: Child & Fam. Serv. Man., § 13.6

In policy: Academic supports are services designed to help a youth complete high school or obtain a general educational development (GED) diploma. Such services include the following:

- Academic counseling
- Preparation for a GED, including assistance in applying for or studying for a GED exam

- Tutoring, help with homework, and study skills training
- Literacy training
- Help accessing educational resources

Education financial assistance is a payment that is paid for or provided by the department for education or training, including allowances to purchase textbooks, uniforms, computers, and other educational supplies; tuition assistance; scholarships; payment for educational preparation and support services (e.g., tutoring); and payment for GED and other educational tests.

Planning for Postsecondary Education

Citation: Child & Fam. Serv. Man., § 13.6

Postsecondary educational supports are services designed to help a youth enter or complete college, including the following:

- Classes for test preparation, such as the Scholastic Aptitude Test
- Counseling about college
- Information about financial aid and scholarships
- Help completing college or loan applications
- Tutoring while in college
- Other supports, such as college tours paid for or provided by the agency

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: Ann. Code § 23.1-601; Admin. Code Tit. 8, § 40-180-20; Child & Fam. Serv. Man., § 13.11

To receive a grant for the payment of tuition and fees, a Virginia student must meet the following criteria:

- Meets either of the following:
 - Has received a high school diploma or has passed a high school equivalency examination and was in foster care or in the custody of the department or is considered a special needs adoption at the time such diploma or certificate was awarded
 - Was in foster care when he or she turned age 18 and subsequently received a high school diploma or passed a high school equivalency examination
- Is enrolled or has been accepted for enrollment as a full-time or part-time student in a degree or certificate program of at least 1 academic year in length or in a noncredit workforce credential program in a comprehensive community college
- Has not been enrolled in postsecondary education as a full-time student for more than 5 years or does not have a bachelor's degree
- Maintains the required grade-point average (GPA) established by the institution at which he or she is enrolled
- Has submitted a complete Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for Federal student financial aid programs for which he or she may be eligible
- Demonstrates financial need
- Meets any additional financial need requirements established by the institution at which he or she is enrolled

In regulation: In order to apply for the program, the student must do the following:

- Submit the FAFSA by the participating institution's priority filing deadline and complete the verification process, if applicable
- Be accepted into an associate degree-granting public institution of higher education or baccalaureate public institution of higher education
- Ensure that a document on official department letterhead providing dates in foster care, and if applicable, an adoption assistance agreement verifying special-needs adoption, is sent to the institution's financial aid office

To be eligible for an award, the student must meet the following criteria:

- Be a child in foster care, as supported by documentation from the department that includes either (i) dates in foster care or (ii) assistance received for a special-needs adoption
- Have at least half-time enrollment in an eligible program
- Be a domiciliary resident of Virginia
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress
- Have not been previously enrolled as a full-time student for more than 5 years
- Not hold a bachelor's degree
- Demonstrate financial need

In policy: Youth ages 14 to 26 who are eligible to receive vouchers under the Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Have had their most recent foster care episode provided by Virginia
- Be eligible for services under Virginia's Chafee program (or would otherwise be eligible except that they have reached age 23)
- Have received their high school diploma or equivalent, or GED certificate
- Have applied for financial aid through the postsecondary school or training program, if applicable, they wish to attend or participate in
- Make satisfactory academic progress by maintaining at least a cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale or have an academic standing consistent with the institution's graduation requirements for the Federal student financial aid program

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: Ann. Code § 23.1-601; Admin. Code Tit. 8, § 40-180-30; Child & Fam. Serv. Man., § 13.11

Each comprehensive community college shall and any other associate degree-granting public institution of higher education or baccalaureate public institution of higher education may provide a grant for the payment of tuition and fees, except fees established for the purpose of paying for course materials such as laboratory fees, for any Virginia student who has been in foster care and meets eligibility requirements.

In regulation: Community colleges must provide awards, when combined with other gift aid, sufficient to cover, at a minimum, tuition and mandatory fees. Richard Bland College and baccalaureate public institutions of higher education may provide awards, when combined with other gift aid, sufficient to cover at a minimum tuition and mandatory fees.

Awards are subject to the following restrictions:

- The award, when combined with other gift aid, may not exceed the student's cost of attendance.
- The award, when combined with other tuition-only awards, may not exceed the student's tuition and mandatory fees.
- If an award recipient's enrollment is below half-time as of the institution's census date, eligibility for the grant is lost and must be refunded to the institution.

A student who receives an award and who during a term withdraws from the institution that made the award must surrender the balance of the award. In determining the earned portion of the award that the student may retain, the institution shall apply the percentage of earned aid resulting from the Federal return to title IV formula to the student's award amount.

A student who has a change in enrollment, such as adding or dropping one or more courses, must have his or her award reevaluated by the institution to ensure that the award conforms with the restrictions of this section.

In policy: The purpose of the ETV program is to fund goods and services designed to assist eligible youth in successfully completing a postsecondary educational or vocational training program by covering up to a maximum of \$5,000 or the total cost of attendance (whichever is less) per State fiscal year of the following expenses:

- Tuition and fees
- Room and board
- Rental or purchase of required educational equipment, materials, or supplies (including computer, software, and computer-related accessories)
- Allowance for books and transportation
- Required residential training related to an educational or vocational program
- Special study projects related to education
- Child care
- Other related expenses

WASHINGTON

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

Citation: Rev. Code §§ 74.13.540; 74.15.020; Prac. & Proc. Man. § 4302A

Independent-living services include assistance in achieving basic educational requirements, such as a high school equivalency certificate, and enrollment in vocational and technical training programs offered at the community and vocational colleges.

Transitional living services include, at a minimum, to the extent funds are available, the following:

- Educational services, including basic literacy and computational skills training, either in local alternative or public high schools or in a high school equivalency program that leads to obtaining a high school equivalency degree
- Assistance and counseling related to obtaining vocational training or higher education, job readiness, job search assistance, and placement programs

In policy: The caseworker will do the following:

- Monitor the child's ongoing academic progress, including most current grades, State test scores, attendance, and credits, when applicable, to make sure the child is prepared to progress to the next grade level and is on track to graduate
- Engage child and caregiver in reviewing the child's progress and planning for academic success

If the child is home schooled, the caseworker will review the end-of-year assessment to determine if academic progress is being made.

Planning for Postsecondary Education

Citation: Rev. Code § 28B.117.010; Prac. & Proc. Man. § 4302A

The Passport to Careers Program is created. The purpose of the program is to do the following:

- To encourage youth currently and formerly in foster care and unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness to prepare for, enroll in, and successfully complete higher education or a registered apprenticeship or preapprenticeship program

- To improve the high school graduation outcomes of foster youth and unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness through coordinated education and child welfare outreach, intervention, and planning
- To improve postsecondary outcomes by providing youth currently and formerly in foster care and unaccompanied youth who have experienced homelessness with the educational planning, information, institutional support, and direct financial resources necessary for them to succeed in either higher education or a registered apprenticeship or preapprenticeship program

In policy: Division of Children and Family Services staff will facilitate postsecondary education planning for children in out-of-home care.

The caseworker will do the following:

- Provide copies of all education records to youth in foster care age 15 to 18 prior to the youth turning age 18, as defined in the transition plan policy
- Involve youth in post-high school planning, including options for postsecondary education and career or vocational training, as well as scholarships, financial aid, the Education and Training Voucher program, etc.

From the Washington Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction [website](#): The Supplemental Education Transition Planning Program (SETuP) provides information to youth, foster families, and school staff about post-high school education and training opportunities for youth in foster care. Regional SETuP providers can help young people get SETuP for college by offering the following:

- Financial aid application assistance
- Transportation and housing information and assistance
- College application coaching and assistance
- Pre-college testing guidance based on educational goals
- Course planning to help achieve educational goals
- Resource links to programs and services especially for youth age 14-21 in foster care

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: Rev. Code §§ 28B.116.010; 28B.117.030

To be eligible for the Foster Care Endowed Scholarship Program, a student must meet the following criteria:

- Be between age 16 and 23
- Has been in foster care in the State of Washington for a minimum of 6 months since his or her 14th birthday
- Demonstrates financial need, as defined in § 28B.92.030
- Is a resident student
- Has entered or will enter an institution of higher education in Washington State within 3 years of high school graduation or having successfully completed his or her high school equivalency certificate
- Is not pursuing a degree in theology
- Makes satisfactory progress toward the completion of a degree or certificate program

The Office of Student Financial Assistance shall design and, to the extent funds are appropriated for this purpose, implement Passport to Careers with two programmatic pathways—the Passport to College Promise Program and the Passport to Apprenticeship Opportunities Program. Both programs offer supplemental scholarship and student assistance for students who were under the care of the State foster care system, Tribal foster care system, or Federal foster care system and verified unaccompanied youth or young adults who have experienced homelessness.

To the extent that sufficient funds have been appropriated for this purpose, a student is eligible for assistance under this section if he or she meets the following criteria:

- Either of the following conditions apply to the student:
 - Was in the care of the State foster care system, Tribal foster care system, or Federal foster care system in Washington State at any time before age 21 subsequent to the following:
 - Age 15 as of July 1, 2018
 - Age 14 as of July 1, 2019
 - Age 13 as of July 1, 2020
 - Beginning July 1, 2019, was verified on or after July 1st of the prior academic year as an unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness, before age 21
- Is a resident student, as defined in § 28B.15.012(2), or if unable to establish residency because of homelessness or placement in out-of-State foster care under the Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children, has residency determined through verification by the office
- Is enrolled with or will enroll on at least a half-time basis with an institution of higher education or a registered apprenticeship or recognized preapprenticeship in Washington State by the age of 21
- Is making satisfactory academic progress toward the completion of a degree, certificate program, or registered apprenticeship or recognized preapprenticeship, if receiving supplemental scholarship assistance
- Has not earned a bachelor's or professional degree
- Is not pursuing a degree in theology

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: Rev. Code §§ 28B.116.020; 28B.116.030; 28B.117.030

The purpose of the Foster Care Endowed Scholarship Program is to help students who were in foster care attend an institution of higher education in the State of Washington. The Foster Care Endowed Scholarship Program shall be administered by the Office of Student Financial Assistance.

The office may award scholarships to eligible students from the foster care scholarship endowment fund. For an undergraduate student, the amount of the scholarship shall not exceed the student's demonstrated financial need. For a graduate student, the amount of the scholarship shall not exceed the student's demonstrated need or the stipend of a teaching assistant, including tuition, at the University of Washington, whichever is higher.

In calculating a student's need, the office shall consider the student's costs for tuition, fees, books, supplies, transportation, room, board, personal expenses, and child care. The student's scholarship awarded under this chapter shall not exceed the amount received by a student attending a State research university. A student is eligible to receive a scholarship for a maximum of 5 years. However, the length of the scholarship shall be determined at the discretion of the office.

Grants under this chapter shall not affect eligibility for the State student financial aid program.

A Passport to College Promise Scholarship under this section is subject to the following limitations:

- It shall not exceed resident undergraduate tuition and fees at the highest-priced public institution of higher education in the State.
- It shall not exceed the student's financial need, when combined with all other public and private grant, scholarship, and waiver assistance the student receives.

An eligible student may receive a Passport to College Promise Scholarship for a maximum of 5 years after the student first enrolls with an institution of higher education or until the student turns age 26, whichever occurs first. If a student turns age 26 during an academic year, and would otherwise be eligible for a scholarship, the student shall continue to be eligible for a scholarship for the remainder of the academic year.

The Passport to Apprenticeship Opportunities Program is created and shall do the following:

- Provide financial assistance for registered apprenticeship and recognized preapprenticeship entrance requirements and occupational-specific costs that do not exceed the individual's financial need
- Extend financial assistance to any eligible applicant for a maximum of 6 years after first enrolling with a registered apprenticeship or recognized preapprenticeship, or until the applicant turns 26, whichever occurs first

Recipients may utilize Passport to College Promise or Passport to Apprenticeship Opportunities at different times, but not concurrently. The total award an individual may receive in any combination of the programs shall not exceed the equivalent amount that would have been awarded for the individual to attend a public university for 5 years with the highest annual tuition and State-mandated fees in the State.

WEST VIRGINIA

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

Citation: Foster Care Pol. Man. § 5.26

Services for transitioning youth include the following:

- Academic counseling to provide assistance with discovering the reason for failing grades, not being able to study appropriately, or not being able to concentrate in class and how to overcome these difficulties
- Educational advocacy to assist with obtaining the required services to complete an educational plan, such as helping the youth maintain contact with school counselors, attendance counselors, and social workers for needed services; assisting the youth in obtaining needed services; and working with the school on any issue related to the youth's educational plan
- Academic evaluation of the youth's academic achievements and areas needing improvements to determine the supports and services the youth may need to accomplish his or her educational plan/goals
- Homework and study skills assistance to provide youth with instruction on how to better obtain information from class, take notes in class, improve study habits, and how to take tests, as well as assistance with homework when it is needed
- High school equivalency (HSE) preparation and support, including providing guidance in applying for, enrolling in classes for, attending classes for, and testing for the HSE
- Literacy education to provide youth with appropriate reading and writing skills so they can obtain their high school diploma or HSE
- Tutoring

Planning for Postsecondary Education

Citation: Foster Care Pol. Man. §§ 5.26; 5.34

Services for transitioning youth include the following:

- Education/career planning to assist the youth in exploring educational and/or career interest or options, including using career resource libraries, interest inventories, job/college fairs, and other community resources
- Educational services to assist the youth with postsecondary activities that will help them reach their educational goals, including assisting youth with test preparation (American College Test, Scholastic Aptitude Test), linking youth to colleges, providing youth an opportunity to attend college orientations/tours, assisting youth in completing financial aid applications, assisting youth in enrolling and registering in an educational program, and other educational resources

- Education funding to assist youth in obtaining a postsecondary educational goal, such as a college degree, a program certification, or licensure, including tuition and fees, room and board at schools, interim housing, and food
- Education supplies to assist youth in obtaining a postsecondary educational goal, including school clothing, books, and supplies

A youth in the care of the Department of Health and Human Resources who has graduated from high school or obtained his/her high school equivalency and has the interest and ability to pursue further education either in college or vocational school should be strongly encouraged to pursue his/her educational goals. The department may support youth who are continuing their education up to age 21 through the foster care program.

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: Ann. Code § 18B-10-7b; Foster Care Pol. Man. §§ 5.34; 5.34.1; 5.35.3

The governing boards shall make provisions for institutions under their respective jurisdictions to award a tuition and fee waiver for undergraduate courses at State institutions of higher education for any student, beginning with incoming freshmen in the fall of 2000 semester or term who graduate from high school or pass the general educational development (GED) examination while in the legal custody of the State Department of Health and Human Resources. The student must be in foster care or other residential care for at least 1 year prior to the waiver award. If the foster care or other residential care is provided in another State, the student must first be returned to this State for waiver award eligibility.

To be eligible for a waiver of tuition award, a student must first (1) apply to and be accepted at the institution and (2) apply for other student financial assistance, other than student loans, in compliance with Federal financial aid rules, including the Federal Pell Grant.

Waiver renewal is contingent upon the student continuing to meet the academic progress standards established by the institution.

In policy: Youth in foster care are eligible to receive State-funded tuition waivers for the purpose of attending a West Virginia public higher education institution. Within limitations of the governing boards, the waiver program is available to any youth who meets the following criteria:

- Has been in foster care or residential care for at least 1 year prior to the waiver application
- Graduated from high school or passed the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) examination while in the legal custody of the Department of Health and Human Resources
- Applies for the waiver within 2 years of graduating from high school or passing the TASC
- Has been accepted to a West Virginia public higher education institution
- Applies for other student financial aid, other than student loans, in compliance with Federal financial aid rules, including the federal Pell Grant

Federally funded Chafee Education and Training Vouchers (ETVs) are available to assist with the costs of higher education or vocational training for the following three categories of youth as follows:

- Youth adopted from foster care after age 16
- Youth who have aged out of foster care
- Youth placed in legal guardianship after age 16

Youth formerly in foster care who turned age 18 while in foster care can receive Chafee services up to age 23 and can receive ETVs in certain circumstances up to age 26.

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: Ann. Code § 18B-10-7b; Foster Care Pol. Man. § 5.35

The waiver provided by this section for each eligible student may be used for no more than 4 years of undergraduate study. An initial waiver must be granted within 2 years of graduation from high school or passing the GED examination.

The waiver may only be used after other sources of financial aid that are dedicated solely to tuition and fees are exhausted.

In policy: The waiver covers tuition and fees after other sources of financial aid dedicated solely to tuition and fees are exhausted. Each educational facility determines the amount that will be covered by the tuition waiver. The waiver does not cover room and board or the cost of books. The youth may apply for the West Virginia Foster Youth Tuition Waiver at the financial aid office of the college or university where accepted. A letter on department letterhead signed by department management will be required as proof of foster/residential care placement 1 year prior to the waiver application. The youth must continue to meet the academic progress standards established by the West Virginia higher educational institution they are attending in order to receive a waiver renewal.

Youth formerly in foster care who meet the eligibility criteria may receive educational assistance through the ETV program up to \$5,000 per calendar year, for up to 5 years total. The money may be used to cover the costs of attending college or vocational training, including all expenses related to a course of study such as computers, special clothing, shoes or boots, books, housing, transportation, and other related educational expenses.

WISCONSIN

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

This issue is not addressed in the statutes and regulations reviewed.

Planning for Postsecondary Education

Citation: DCF Website

From the Department of Children and Families [website](#): Each student must have an education focus included in his or her independent-living plan. The student must be involved in designing his or her plan and program activities. The education section of the plan should include the following:

- A plan for successful completion of education or training after high school
- Links/communication with school counselors, officials, and/or support persons
- A plan for completing required applications, tests, and other financial aid forms
- A plan for supporting school or training attendance

Students receiving assistance accept responsibility for doing what it needed to maintain funding, such as, for example, being responsive to the regional agency, meeting deadlines, and/or providing needed documentation.

Eligibility requirements

Citation: DCF Website

Brighter Star funds are awarded through transition resource agencies. Processes may differ between regions, but eligible youth will likely need to complete an application to receive funds.

Brighter Star funds are intended to help the following youth:

- Students who are at least age 17 and a half and are likely to remain in court-ordered out-of-home care placement (foster care) until age 18 or older
- Students who were adopted or entered chapter 48 guardianship at age 16 or older following time in a court-ordered out-of-home care placement
- Students between age 18 and 23 who left the foster care system at age 18 or older

Students may access funds up to age 23 or for 5 academic years, whichever comes first. They must be enrolled in an approved institution of higher education and be making satisfactory progress.

Brighter Star funds cannot be used for activities related to college search, completing high school coursework, or earning high school credit. However, students may receive Brighter Star funds prior to high school graduation if they are enrolled in a certificate program that is directly connected to employment that can be obtained without a high school diploma, such as a certified nursing assistant program. A student must have senior standing to receive funding.

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: DCF Website

Brighter Star, Wisconsin's Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program, allows eligible youth/young adult students to receive up to \$5,000 per school year in financial aid. The student must be enrolled in (or accepted to) an accredited or preaccredited post-high school program. Funds may be spent on tier 1 expenses, identified below. If a youth does not have a tier 1 expense, or once those expenses have already been addressed, Brighter Star funds can be used to pay for other items in tier 2.

Tier 1 expenses include the following:

- Tuition
- Balances due at school
- On-campus room and board
- Meal cards
- Books and school supplies (such as uniforms, tools, and equipment)
- Federal student loans
- Study abroad through qualifying schools

Tier 2 expenses include the following:

- Rent
- Food
- Transportation
- Health insurance premium costs
- Disability services
- Dependent child care expenses to licensed child care providers

WYOMING

Current Through April 2020

Support for Completing High School

Citation: DFS Pol. Man. # 3.4.1

From the Department of Family Services (DFS) [policy manual](#): Chafee-funded services include assistance in obtaining a high school diploma and career exploration.

Planning for Postsecondary Education

This issue is not addressed in the statutes and regulations reviewed.

Eligibility Requirements

Citation: DFS Pol. Man. # 3.4.1

Youth are eligible for federally funded Education and Training Vouchers (ETVs) if the following apply:

- The youth meets one of the following criteria:
 - He or she was in foster care for 12 months after his or her 14th birthday.
 - He or she was adopted or placed in guardianship from foster care on or after his or her 14th birthday.
 - He or she left care after his or her 18th birthday.
- The youth has a high school diploma or general educational development diploma.
- The youth attends at least half-time an accredited school that meets the following criteria:
 - It awards a bachelor's degree or no less than a 2-year program that provides credit toward a degree.
 - It provides no less than 1 year of training toward gainful employment.
 - It is a vocational program that provides training for gainful employment.

The youth must maintain a 2.0 grade-point average (GPA) or better to continue receiving ETV funds. Awards after the first semester will be based on the student's GPA.

Eligibility ends at age 23 and only if the youth has received ETV funds prior to his or her 21st birthday and received passing grades.

Financial Supports for Postsecondary Programs

Citation: DFS Pol. Man. # 3.4.1

A youth may apply for ETV funds through the independent-living provider located in his or her district or the DFS State office program manager. Eligible youth may receive up to \$5,000 per school year to cover unmet educational needs. If the youth is in DFS custody at the time of application, the DFS caseworker shall review and sign the ETV application.



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
Children's Bureau



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