

The Fostering Independence Through Education Waiver

On June 28th, Pennsylvania passed a law, which will create the Fostering Independence Through Education Waiver. This will create a tuition and fee waiver for youth who were in foster care.

KEY PROVISIONS

- **Creates a tuition and fee waiver** for undergraduate degrees at colleges and universities in Pennsylvania for youth in foster care to reduce financial barriers.
- **Creates points-of-contact** at covered institutions to help eligible student identify and apply for financial aid and scholarships, gather verification documents, and access campus and community resources and support services.
- **Provides outreach** to students to ensure that eligible students know about the waiver and all students supports, and apply for all available financial aid.
- **Data collection and reporting** by institutions and government agencies to improve retention and the success of students.
- **The program will begin in the Fall semester of 2020.**
- **The waiver can be used for up to five years until a young adult reaches age 26.**

ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

- Graduated from high school or received equivalent degree.
- Must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress while in college.
- Pennsylvania residents eligible for the PA Chafee Education and Training Grant Program. This includes: youth who were in foster care in PA at age 16 or older and “age out; youth who are adopted or enter guardianship (PLC) arrangements from the PA child welfare system at age 16 or older.

ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS

- Pennsylvania Community Colleges
- Universities in the State System of Higher Education
- Pennsylvania State University
- Private Colleges and Universities in PA
- University of Pittsburgh
- Temple University
- Lincoln University
- Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology

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