

# FOSTER YOUTH TUITION WAIVER FOR CURRENT AND FORMER FOSTER YOUTH RECIPIENTS

*(FAQ will be distributed to students)*

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

### **Who decides the qualifications to be eligible to receive this waiver?**

The Foster Youth Tuition Waiver for Current and Former Foster Care Recipients is part of State Education Code Section 66025.3. The Education Code sets forth the requirements for eligibility for this waiver.

### **Is there a deadline to apply for the tuition waiver?**

No, however, it is important for the student to submit the tuition fee waiver application and supporting documents during the academic term and as soon as possible because the student is responsible for their tuition and fees until the waiver is processed and approved.

### **What determines if I am eligible for the tuition waiver?**

The student must:

1. Must be age 25 or younger by the first day of the academic year;
2. Have been in foster care for at least 12 consecutive months after reaching 10 years of age; and,
3. Meet any of the following:
  - You are under a current foster care placement order by the juvenile court;
  - You were under a foster care placement order from juvenile court upon reaching 18 years of age; or,
  - You were adopted, or entered guardianship, from foster care.

### **If I was in guardianship, custody, or adopted in another state, would I still be eligible?**

Yes, if the student meets the residency requirements for the California State University system, the student is eligible. Please refer to the California State University Residency website: [www.calstate.edu/residency](http://www.calstate.edu/residency)

### **What costs are covered with the tuition waiver?**

The tuition fee waiver only applies to the systemwide mandatory [tuition](#) fee (only state funded courses will be covered) and [application fees](#). The application fee waiver may apply to a maximum of four (4) CSU campuses per application term and it is not transferrable to a future or past application term. It does not apply to campus based mandatory fees. The waiver does not cover campus fees, housing, books, transportation, or other costs of attendance.

### **If I receive a waiver, must I reapply each year or is it automatically renewed?**

Yes, as a requirement, you must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA). In addition, the student must maintain the minimum GPA consistent with their academic program requirements for graduation and remain in good academic standing.

### **If I fail to submit the FASFA, am I still eligible?**

No, failure to complete and submit the FASFA will result in an incomplete tuition fee waiver application and will prevent the student's eligibility for a tuition fee waiver. It is highly suggested to submit the FASFA by the March 2nd priority deadline. If you miss the deadline, it will still be accepted until the last day of the term. However, you will be responsible for the tuition fees until the waiver is processed and approved.

### **How many awards may I receive?**

An otherwise eligible student may be granted the systemwide foster youth tuition waiver for up to the equivalent of 4 years of full-time attendance.

### **If I receive a tuition waiver, will it be in addition to the financial aid I have already received?**

No, the amount of the waiver may be reduced by any state or federal aid, including scholarships or grants, received by the student for the academic year or semester/quarter.

**Are my summer courses covered with the tuition waiver?**

The tuition fee waiver will only cover the student's tuition fee if the campus is offering state supported courses. If you plan to enroll in continuing and extended education self-supporting courses, the tuition fee waiver will not cover the tuition fee.

**If I am a graduate student, do I qualify?**

No, only undergraduate students qualify for the tuition fee waiver.

**If I am a transfer student, do I qualify?**

Yes, a transfer student qualifies as long as the student is age 25 or younger by the first day of the academic year and meets the other requirements listed above.

**If I am 21 years of age and still under foster care, can I receive the tuition waiver?**

Yes, as long as the student meets the eligibility requirements.

**If I qualify for the AB 540 tuition exemption, will I qualify for the tuition waiver?**

No, students who are classified as AB 540 are considered nonresidents. In order to qualify for this waiver, you must be a California resident for tuition purposes.

The foster youth waiver shall be applied if any amount of systemwide tuition fees remains, after the other sources of state or federal financial aid including the Chafee grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG), Cal Grant, Pell and scholarships have been included in determining eligibility.

**How many units are students required to be enrolled?**

Students must be enrolled in at least one unit.

**WEBSITES AND RESOURCES**

Information about the tuition waiver is located at [www.calstate.edu/fosteryouth](http://www.calstate.edu/fosteryouth). For additional resources and information, please contact your campus Financial Aid Office, campus foster youth programs, and Office of the Registrars.