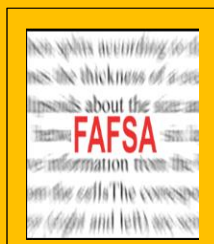


THE MARYLAND TUITION WAIVER FOR FOSTER CARE YOUTH

The [Maryland Higher Education Commission](#) website provides additional information about the **Foster Care Youth Tuition Waiver**



Click the logo below to access the Federal Application for Student Aid Website



- **What is the Maryland Tuition Waiver?** The Maryland Tuition Waiver is available to foster care youth who are candidates for an associate's degree, bachelor's degree or vocational certificate at a Maryland public institution of higher education. The purpose of the tuition waiver is to provide financial assistance.
- **What are other options to help pay for postsecondary education?** There are many ways of keeping postsecondary education affordable. Students should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as early as possible. The FAFSA is available on October 1st annually. The FAFSA is used to determine eligibility for Federal and State aid. The tuition waiver does not cover the cost of books, housing, or food. The FAFSA can help you determine other sources of aid to assist with costs not covered by the tuition waiver. Visit the Maryland Higher Education Commission website at www.mhec.maryland.gov for additional ways to pay for school.
- **How can a foster care youth find out if he or she is eligible for the tuition waiver?** To establish eligibility for the waiver, a student must verify his or her status as a foster care youth with the school system's foster care liaison. The [Maryland Higher Education Commission](#) and the [Maryland Youth Launching Initiatives for Empowerment](#) (MD Connect My Life) websites provides additional information about the Foster Care Youth Tuition Waiver. For continued eligibility, contact the financial aid office at the higher education institution.
- **What paperwork is needed to determine if the student is eligible?** The school system's foster care liaison can assist the student with required paperwork. The [Maryland Higher Education Commission](#) website provides additional information about the Foster Care Youth Tuition Waiver, or contact the foster care liaison in the school system.
- **What schools in Maryland can the student attend with the tuition waiver?** The tuition waiver may be used to attend a Maryland public two-year or four-year college or university.
- **STUDENTS APPLYING FOR THE FOSTER CARE YOUTH TUITION WAIVER MUST CREATE A MARYLAND COLLEGE AID PROCESSING SYSTEM ([MDCAPS](#)) ACCOUNT.**
- **What is MDCAPS?** The MDCAPS is the Maryland Higher Education Commission's (MHEC) comprehensive financial aid system that allows the processing of State scholarship applications and allocate funds more efficiently.

If you experience difficulty creating the MDCAPS account or difficulty accessing an MDCAPS profile, the [MHEC website](#) provides additional information.