

Higher Education Success for Youth in Foster Care: The Fostering Independence Through Education Act, HB 1745

Pennsylvania is currently considering legislation that will improve the chances of higher education success for students who are or were in the foster care system. [The Fostering Independence Through Education Act \(HB 1745\)](#) will ensure the success of these students by creating a tuition and fee waiver and connecting them with important supports.

KEY PROVISIONS OF THE FOSTERING INDEPENDENCE THROUGH EDUCATION ACT

- **Creates a Tuition and Fee Waiver** for undergraduate degrees at state-affiliated colleges and universities in Pennsylvania for youth in foster care to reduce financial barriers.
- **Creates Points of Contact** at covered institutions to connect eligible students to services including accessing and identifying financial aid, gathering verification documents, and providing information regarding support services to access existing resources.
- **Provides Outreach** to students to ensure eligible youth know about the waiver and other higher education supports.
- **Data Collection and Reporting** by institutions and government agencies to improve retention and the success of students.

ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

- Youth who are 16- to 23-years-old and have been in foster care for at least 30 days.
- Graduated from high school or received equivalent degree.
- Must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress while in college.
- Applied for all available federal and state grants.

ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS

- Pennsylvania Community Colleges
- Universities within the State System of Higher Education
- Pennsylvania State University
- University of Pittsburgh
- Temple University
- Lincoln University
- Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology

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