

## Higher Education Success for Youth in Foster Care: The Fostering Independence Through Education Act, HB 1276

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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 \(HB 1276\)](#) 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 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

- Pennsylvania youth who are 14-26 and have been in foster care for at least six months.
- 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 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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