

## What is the College Tuition and Fee Waiver?

This is a state law that exempts or waives payment of tuition and fees at state supported colleges or universities for foster youth currently or formerly in the conservatorship of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) and for those adopted from DFPS.

### **Do I Qualify?**

You qualify for the tuition and fee waiver, if you were in DFPS conservatorship:

- The day before your 18th birthday.
- The day of your 14th birthday, if you are also eligible for adoption on or after that day.
- The day you graduated from high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma.
- The day you were adopted, if that date was on or after September 1, 2009.
- The day Permanent Managing Conservatorship was granted to a non-parent, if that date was on or after September 1, 2009.
- You were 14 years or older on or after June 1, 2016 and left DFPS's Permanent Managing Conservatorship return to the legal responsibility of a parent.
- You were 16 years or older on or after June 1, 2016 and left DFPS Temporary Managing Conservatorship to the legal responsibility of a parent.
- You enrolled in a dual credit course or other course which a high-school student may earn joint high school and college credit, and were in DFPS conservatorship on the day of enrollment.

**Note:** You **must** have enrolled in a state supported college or university as an undergraduate student **before your 25th birthday**.

State PAL staff or, Adoption Eligibility Assistance staff will give you a signed college Tuition Fee Waiver letter to take to the school registrar's office. Participation in PAL services is not required to be eligible for the tuition and fee waiver. See [Texas Education Code section 54.366](#) and [Title 40, Subchapter P, of Chapter 700](#).

### **Tuition Exemptions for Students Adopted from DFPS care and who have an Adoption Assistance Agreement**

You are eligible for the tuition and fee waiver if you were adopted and were the subject of a financial assistance agreement providing monthly payments and Medicaid benefits.

The benefit to qualifying for this waiver is there is **no age limit** for the student to enroll in a college or university. To verify eligibility, contact your [Regional Adoption Staff](#) or call **(800) 233-3405**.

In the past, individuals eligible for the tuition and fee waiver under an adoption assistance agreement had to maintain a certain grade point average and not take more credits than required by the degree program. A new state law passed in June 2017 that removed those requirements. See ([Texas Education Code Section 54.367](#)).

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