

House Bill 851 amended section (s.) 1009.26, Florida Statutes (F.S.), *fee waivers*, to authorize an out-of-state fee waiver for students who attend a Florida secondary school for three consecutive years immediately preceding high school graduation and apply for enrollment and submit an official high school transcript to the Florida College System institution within 24 months of high school graduation.

Below are answers to frequently asked questions about this bill.

1. Who is eligible for this waiver?

This waiver is for students who meet the following criteria:

- Attended a Florida secondary school for three consecutive years immediately before graduating from a Florida high school;
- Submits an admissions application to a Florida College System institution within 24 months of high school graduation; and
- Submits an official high school transcript(s) that provides evidence of meeting the criteria above.

2. What documentation should be used to verify eligibility for this waiver?

An official Florida high school transcript is the required documentation to verify eligibility for this waiver.

3. When are FCS institutions required to start administering this waiver?

The effective date is July 1, 2014; therefore, this waiver is applicable for eligible students for terms starting on or after July 1, 2014.

4. Is this waiver only applicable to students who are undocumented for federal immigration purposes?

No, this waiver is for all students who meet the eligibility criteria, including students who are undocumented for federal immigration purposes.

5. Are FCS institutions required to provide this waiver?

Yes, this waiver is not discretionary. This waiver is applicable to all students who initiate the verification process and meet the eligibility criteria.

6. Should a student be classified as a non-Florida resident for tuition purposes before eligibility for this waiver is determined?

Yes, residency status should be determined before this waiver is applied. Students who receive this waiver shall be classified as non-Florida residents for tuition purposes and are not eligible for state financial aid.

7. Are currently enrolled students who are classified as non-Florida residents for tuition purposes eligible for this waiver?

Currently enrolled students who are classified as non-Florida residents for tuition purposes may be eligible for this waiver. A review of the official high school transcript should be conducted if initiated by a student who may be eligible for this waiver.

8. Are eligible students able to receive a refund of out-of-state fees charged/paid for enrollment prior to July 1, 2014?

No, this waiver is applicable for terms starting on or after July 1, 2014.

9. Do eligible students have to enroll in courses within 24 months?

No, a student must apply for admission within 24 months after high school graduation.

10. Are students who attended a Florida private secondary school for three consecutive years eligible to receive the waiver?

Yes, if a student meets all eligibility requirements he or she is eligible to receive the waiver.

11. Are home education students eligible to receive this waiver?

No, home education students are not eligible to receive this waiver since one of the requirements is that the student attended a Florida secondary school.

12. May a student whose parents live in another state be eligible to receive this waiver?

Yes, a student who meets all the eligibility requirements is eligible to receive this waiver.

13. Should an FCS institution prioritize enrollment of a veteran who is granted an out-of-state fee waiver pursuant to *Congressman C.W. Bill Young Tuition Waiver Act* over a student who is granted this out-of-state fee waiver?

Yes, an FCS institution shall prioritize the enrollment of a veteran who is granted an out-of-state fee waiver pursuant to *Congressman C.W. Bill Young Tuition Waiver Act* over a student who is granted an out-of-state fee waiver under this subsection.

14. Can this waiver apply to online programs and courses?

Yes, this waiver may be applied to online programs and courses.

15. Must student eligibility for this waiver be verified each term?

No, verification of student eligibility for this waiver is only required the term of initial eligibility. However, a student who transfers to another public postsecondary institution in Florida may be required to provide an official high school transcript for the purposes of eligibility verification.

16. This waiver may be applied to 110 percent of the required credit hours of the degree or certificate program for which the student is enrolled. What does this mean?

Students may enroll using the waiver for the number of credit hours that would equal 110 percent of the total number of required career or college credit hours of the student's intended degree or certificate program.

17. Would an eligible student be able to transfer the waiver to another degree or certificate program? If so, how will the 110 percent limit be applied?

Yes, an eligible student may switch programs and continue to be eligible for 110 percent of the program for which he/she is enrolled. All courses and credits applicable to the new program are applicable to the 110 percent cap.

18. Is there a limit on the number of times an eligible student may repeat a course using this waiver?

Yes, according to s.1009.285, F.S., *Fees for repeated enrollment in college-credit courses:*

A student enrolled in the same undergraduate college-credit course more than twice shall pay tuition at 100 percent of the full cost of instruction and shall not be included in calculations of full-time equivalent enrollments for state funding purposes.

Therefore, a student will be required to pay 100 percent of the full cost of instruction if a course is repeated more than twice. All course attempts are counted towards the 110 percent limit unless an exception has been granted for extenuating circumstances.

19. Does an eligible student need to maintain continuous enrollment in order to remain eligible for this waiver?

No, a student who meets the specified criteria will remain eligible for this waiver until the 110 percent limit is reached.