



Tip Sheet Tuition and Fee Exemptions

College Tuition and Fee exemptions and waivers are types of financial assistance authorized in Florida Statute that provide opportunities for many students to attend college at reduced tuition and fee cost or even free. These exemptions and waivers make it possible for youth and young adults involved in the dependency system who age out of foster care, are closed to a relative or non-relative under permanent guardianship, or who were adopted out of the child welfare system to be able to attend Florida public colleges and universities.

A Tuition Waiver is available to:

An exemption from the payment of tuition and fees, including lab fees, is provided for certain students who are, by statutory definition, exempt. Exemptions are primarily identified in section (s.) 1009.25, Florida Statutes (F.S.). Students in the following categories are broadly defined as exempt:

- He or she is or was at the time he or she reached age 18 in the custody of the Department of Children and Families;
- He or she was adopted from the Department of Children and Families after May 5, 1997;
- He or she is or was at the time of reaching age 18 in the custody of a relative under s. 39.5085, F.S.;
- He or she is or was at the time of reaching age 18 in the custody of a non-relative under s. 39.5085, F.S.; or,
- He or she was placed in a guardianship by the court after spending at least 6 months in the custody of the department after reaching 16 years of age.

About the Tuition Wavier:

- Can be used at a Florida public college, university, or technical/vocational school.
- Covers tuition and fees only.
- Does not cover books, housing, and other expenses associated with higher education.
- Valid until the student reaches age 28.

To Obtain a Tuition Waiver form for a child served by Partnership for Strong Families:

- Provide the student's full name and date of birth, a phone number, and an email address to the PSF Point of Contact:

Program	Point of Contact	Phone	Email
Aged out of Foster Care	Keona ONeal Givens	386-243-8800	Keona.Oneal@pfsf.org
18 & in Permanent Guardianship	Carol Ruth	352-463-3110	Carol.Ruth@pfsf.org
Adopted from Child Welfare System	Patricia Braitsch	352-244-1500	Patricia.Braitsch@pfsf.org

Education is the most powerful weapon for changing the world.