



TEXAS
Department of Family
and Protective Services

COLLEGE PROGRAMS/RESOURCES FOR DFPS FOSTER YOUTH, ADOPTED YOUTH & CERTAIN YOUTH THAT EXIT TO A PARENT OR NON-PARENT OR ENTER THE PCA PROGRAM-January 2026

What is the STATE COLLEGE TUITION AND FEE WAIVER?	What is the EDUCATION AND TRAINING VOUCHER (ETV) program?	What OTHER DFPS EDUCATION RESOURCES are available?
<p>The waiver exempts or waives payment of tuition and fees at Texas state-supported public 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. Students must enroll in a Texas state-supported school or a dual credit course by their 27th birthday.</p>	<p>The federal ETV program may provide <u>up to</u> \$5,000 an academic year to eligible students for college related expenses including rent, books, utilities, childcare, computers, personal expenses, transportation and tuition, if applicable. Funds awarded are based on the college's estimated cost of attendance and after all financial aid assistance has been factored in.</p>	<p>The federal Preparation For Adult Living (PAL) Services program assists older youth in foster care and former foster youth to prepare to transition to a successful adulthood.</p>
<p>Who is Eligible? All individuals in DFPS Conservatorship (substitute care) in one of the circumstances listed below.</p> <p><i>FOSTER YOUTH:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The day preceding the student's 18th birthday; On or after the day of the student's 14th birthday, and eligible for adoption on or after that day; On the date the student graduates from high school or receives the equivalent of a high school diploma. <p><i>RETURN TO THE LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY OF A PARENT:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a youth was age 14 or older on or after June 1, 2016 and exits DFPS's Permanent Managing Conservatorship (PMC); OR If a youth was age 16 or older on or after June 1, 2016 and exits DFPS's Temporary Managing Conservatorship (TMC). <p><i>PMC TO A NON-PARENT:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PMC was granted to a non-parent on or after September 1, 2009. <p><i>ADOPTED YOUTH:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption occurred on or after September 1, 2009; OR Adopted and the subject of an adoption assistance agreement for both monthly financial assistance and Medicaid. (There is no age limit for college enrollment for these students.) <p><i>DUAL CREDIT COURSES</i> Students can use the waiver to enroll in a dual credit course that offers joint high school and college credit.</p>	<p>Who is Eligible? All individuals in DFPS Conservatorship (substitute care) in one of the circumstances listed below.</p> <p><i>FOSTER YOUTH:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> who are at least 16 and likely to remain in care until 18; or who age out foster care but are not yet 23. <p><i>YOUTH WHO ENTER PERMANENCY CARE ASSISTANCE (PCA):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> not yet age 23 and entered the PCA program after age 16 <p><i>ADOPTED YOUTH:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> adopted from DFPS foster care after turning age 16 <p><i>OTHER:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Texas Juvenile Justice Department - youth must be in the custody of or under the jurisdiction of a local juvenile probation department AND were in a Title IV-E placement receiving Title IV-E payments on the day they turn 18. Tribal youth in tribal foster care <p><i>Students up to age 23:</i> The ETV program serves eligible students ages 16 up to age 23 by providing up to \$5,000 a year to attend college or vocational programs. Students may not receive ETV funds for more than 5 years, (whether or not consecutive). A student may remain eligible up to age 23, as long as the student is making satisfactory progress toward completion of their school approved degree or certificate program.</p> <p>*Note: Undocumented youth are not eligible for ETV.</p>	<p>Who is Eligible? Youth in DFPS paid substitute care are the priority population for PAL services.</p> <p><i>FOSTER YOUTH/YOUNG ADULTS:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> who are at least age 16 or older and likely to remain in foster care until at least age 18. may qualify for PAL services up to their 21st birthday. <p>PAL Benefits/Services: <u>Transitional Living Allowance</u> - Up to \$1,000 and must meet the qualification requirements to include completion of PAL Life Skills Training.</p> <p><u>Aftercare Room and Board Assistance</u> - Based on need and emergency, up to \$500 a month (not to exceed \$3,000 of accumulated payments) and have been in DFPS paid care at age 18 and meet qualification requirements.</p> <p><u>Other</u> - Independent living skills training, support services as needed.</p> <p>PAL Staff Contact List: https://www.dfps.texas.gov/Child_Protection/Youth_and_Young_Adults/Preparation_For_Adult_Living/PAL_coordinators.asp</p>



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What schools and programs can be used with the STATE COLLEGE TUITION AND FEE WAIVER?	What schools, programs, and courses can be used with the EDUCATION AND TRAINING VOUCHER Program?	What other DFPS SCHOLARSHIPS may be available?
<p>Eligible students can attend any Texas state-supported, public college or university, including vocational, law, medical, and public technical institutions.</p> <p>GENERAL INFORMATION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fees are waived if required for education purposes (i.e., lab or other mandatory fees). Skills training programs offered at community and technical colleges must be funded with state funds to be eligible for the tuition waiver. DFPS PAL Supervisors, SSCC equivalent staff, or Adoption Eligibility staff verify eligibility for the waiver letter (Form 1810). Students submit the waiver letter when registering for school. Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THCEB) offer outreach programs to ensure foster youth in grades 9-12 are aware of the tuition and fee waiver. <p>As of January 1, 2016 each Texas state public college/university now has a Foster Care Student Liaison to help former foster youth access services and receive assistance. Foster Care Student Liaison List</p> <p>The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board provides helpful information needed for youth/young adults to plan for college at My TX Future</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply Texas - College Application https://www.applytexas.org/ Compare Colleges Texas (2 and 4 year schools) https://www.mytexasfuture.org/adult-college/types-of-schools-programs/ <p>Statutory Citation: Texas Education Code §54.366, §54.367, 40 Texas Administrative Code §700.1630.</p>	<p>Eligible students can attend an *accredited or pre-accredited private, public or non-profit institution of higher education that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provides a bachelor's degree or not less than a two-year program that provides credit towards a degree or certification; or provides not less than a one-year program of training to prepare students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation; or offers training programs and have been in existence for at least two years preparing students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation (training may be less than a year). <p>Students must enroll in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> at least 6 semester hours; or 3 semester hours if enrolled in a summer session or a dual college credit course. <p>Correspondence, Distance Education, or Continuing Education courses are allowed if part of a student's academic degree or certificate program. Prior approval by the ETV staff is needed to ensure proper school accreditation and course qualifications.</p> <p>Students apply at: www.texasetv.com or call 1-877-268-4063.</p> <p>More information about these college programs is available at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> My TX Future Find Trade Schools in Texas and Learn About Your Career Options <p>*Note: all of the schools/programs listed above must be accredited or have been granted pre-accreditation status by an agency or organization that has been recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education.</p> <p>Statutory Citation: P.L. 110-351, 42 U.S.C. §677, 40 Texas Administrative Code §700.1613</p>	<p>If a youth/young adult aged out of DFPS foster care, completed the PAL life skills training program, and met other requirements they may be eligible for scholarships. These funds can be used to supplement any school expenses not covered by the ETV program, scholarships, or federal grants.</p> <p><u>DFPS SCHOLARSHIPS:</u></p> <p>Freshmen Success Fund for Foster Youth (est. April 2013): This is a one-time grant of \$1,000 available for first time college freshmen formerly in DFPS foster care. These grants must cover basic, non-tuition related expenses such as books and supplies, computers and software, tools and uniforms, and transportation. Students must be enrolled in a Texas state-supported college, university, or vocational school that accepts the tuition and fee waiver.</p> <p>C. Ed Davis-PAL Scholarship (est. July 2012): This scholarship is for basic, non-tuition needs for former foster youth who are majoring in government, political science, history, or other pre-law field. Scholarships are for \$1,000 per academic year and are available to sophomore, junior, or senior year students.</p> <p>Note: Scholarships received may affect the amount of ETV funds to be awarded because they are factored in with other sources of funds received by the student.</p>