

# Frequently Asked Questions – Tuition Waivers

## The Congressman C.W. “Bill” Young Veteran Tuition Waiver Program

### **1. What is the Congressman C.W. “Bill” Young Veteran Tuition Waiver Program?**

Established by House Bill 7015 in Florida Statute 1009.26(13)(a), the Congressman C.W. “Bill” Young Veteran Tuition Waiver Program is a program that requires a state university, Florida College System institution, career center, or charter technical career center to waive out-of-state fees for an honorably discharged veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces, the U.S. Reserve Forces or the National Guard who physically resides in Florida while enrolled in the institution. The waiver will cover the applicable portion of the fees up to 110 percent of the required credit hours for the degree or certificate program in which the student is enrolled.

### **2. Are district career centers and charter technical career centers *required* to provide this waiver?**

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

### **3. When are centers required to start administering this waiver?**

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

### **4. Who is eligible to receive the out-of-state fee waiver?**

An honorably discharged veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces, U.S. Reserve Forces or the National Guard who physically resides in the state while enrolled in a career center or charter technical career center is eligible to receive the fee waiver.

### **5. What are the United States Armed Forces, United States Reserve Forces, and the National Guard Components?**

The U.S. Armed Forces consist of the following: Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps and Navy.

The U.S. Reserve Forces are the following: Marine Forces Reserve, Navy Reserve, Army Reserve, Air Force Reserve and Coast Guard Reserve.

The National Guard Components are the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard.

### **6. What documentation must a veteran present to a career center or charter technical career center to be considered for this out-of-state fee waiver?**

To be eligible for this out-of-state fee waiver, veterans will be expected to provide the following documentation:

- Proof that the veteran physically resides in the state. This may include, but is not limited to, a Florida driver license or Florida identification card.
- Proof that the veteran is honorably discharged. Information may be found on the veteran’s DD214, discharge certificate or other documentation as deemed appropriate by the center.

- 7. May veterans who physically reside in a state other than Florida qualify to receive this waiver?**  
No. A veteran must physically reside in Florida to be eligible to receive the out-of-state fee waiver. This also applies to veterans who intend to enroll exclusively in online programs or courses.
- 8. Is the veteran required to reside in Florida at the time of military service?**  
No. A veteran is required to reside in the state while attending the career center.
- 9. Are active duty military or National Guard members eligible to receive this out-of-state fee waiver?**  
No. However, Florida Statute 1009.21 (10)(a) specifies that active duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces residing or stationed in Florida and active drilling members of the Florida National Guard are classified as residents for tuition purposes.
- 10. Should the center verify eligibility for each term?**  
Yes. The center must ensure the veteran physically resides in Florida each term.
- 11. Will this waiver be automatically applied when an eligible veteran transfers from one institution to another?**  
Each center must verify eligibility each term of enrollment due to the requirement of proof of physical presence in Florida.
- 12. 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 up to the number of clock hours that would equal 110 percent of the total number of required hours of the student's intended certificate program.
- 13. Would an eligible veteran be able to transfer the waiver to another 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 or she is enrolled. All courses and credits applicable to the new program are applicable to the 110 percent cap.
- 14. Are currently enrolled veterans who are classified as non-Florida residents for tuition purposes eligible for this waiver?**  
Yes. All veterans who meet the eligibility criteria and who physically reside in the state are eligible to receive the waiver.
- 15. Are eligible veterans able to receive a refund of out-of-state fees charged or paid for enrollment prior to July 1, 2014?**  
No. This waiver is applicable for terms starting on or after July 1, 2014.

**16. Are school districts required to report the number and value of the out of state waiver to the Florida Department of Education?**

Yes. A new code has been added to the data element for “Adult Fee Status” in the Workforce Development Information System (WDIS). Students who qualify for this out-of- state waiver must be reported on “Adult Fee Status” with a value of “H” and on “Residency for Tuition Purposes” with a value of “N.” The department is working on a new process for districts to report the value of these values on an annual basis.

## **Frequently Asked Questions – Tuition and Out-of-State Fee Waivers**

### **1. Who is eligible for the out-of-state fee waiver?**

Established by House Bill 851 in Florida Statute 1009.26 (12)(a), this waiver is for a student who meets 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 an institution of higher education 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 career centers 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 applicable *only* 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 school districts *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 if they meet the requirement as specified in law (see eligibility in question 1). 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 or 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. Can this waiver apply to online programs or courses?**  
Yes. This waiver may be applied to online postsecondary programs and/or courses.
- 14. 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.
- 15. 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 hours that would equal 110 percent of the total number of required hours of the student's intended certificate program.
- 16. 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 or she is enrolled. All courses and credits applicable to the new program are applied to the 110 percent limit.
- 17. 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.
- 18. Should a career center or charter technical career center 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. A center is required to 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.

**19. Are school districts required to report the number and value of the out-of-state waiver to the Florida Department of Education?**

Yes. A new code has been added to the data element for “Adult Fee Status” in the Workforce Development Information System (WDIS). Students who qualify for this out-of-state waiver must be reported on “Adult Fee Status” with a value of “A” and on “Residency for Tuition Purposes” with a value of “N.” The department is working on a new process for districts to report the value of these values on an annual basis.

## **Frequently Asked Questions – Adult General Education Tuition**

**1. What changes were made to the adult general education block tuition?**

The out-of-state fee for non-residents was removed from the law. Districts can no longer assess an out-of-state fee in addition to tuition for students classified as non-residents for tuition purposes.

**2. Are districts still required to assess tuition to students enrolled in adult general education programs?**

Yes. All students shall be charged fees except students who are exempt or students whose tuition is waived.

**3. When are career centers no longer required to assess the out-of-state fee?**

The effective date is July 1, 2014; therefore, this applies to students for terms starting on or after July 1, 2014.

**4. Are students able to receive a refund of out-of-state fees charged or paid for enrollment prior to July 1, 2014?**

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

**5. If an out-of-state fee is no longer required for non-residents, does the district have to make a residency determination for students enrolled in adult general education programs?**

No. All students without an exemption or waiver will be charged the same block tuition of \$30 per term or \$45 per half year. The district is not required to make a residency determination or maintain residency documentation.

**6. Does the district have to amend its tuition and fees procedures?**

Yes. District adopted tuition and fee policies should be amended to remove the out-of-state fee for adult general education programs.