

Foster Care Exemption Fact Sheet

Fact Sheets highlight specific requirements in the Texas Education Code (TEC) and Texas Administrative Code (TAC) in order to assist institutions with the administration of programs.

Purpose

To encourage foster youth currently or formerly under the conservatorship of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) and those adopted from DFPS to pursue a higher education by providing eligible students free tuition at state-supported colleges or universities.

Eligibility Determination

Students are determined eligible by DFPS after requesting **Form 1810: DFPS Verification of the State College Tuition and Fee Waiver**. The form is processed by either DFPS Adoption Eligibility or Preparation for Adult (PAL) Living staff.

NOTE: Once DFPS confirms eligibility for the exemption, students are able to receive the exemption indefinitely.

Eligible Courses

Any course for which an institution receives formula funding is eligible ([TEC, Section 54.2002](#)), including dual credit courses.

Formula funding is defined as the method used to allocate appropriated sources of funds. Formula-funded courses are those that do not depend solely on student tuition and fees to cover their costs.

Enrollment Eligibility

To apply for the exemption, eligible students must:

1. Enroll as an undergraduate or in a dual credit course or other course for which a high school student may earn joint high school and college credit at a public institution of higher education in Texas as defined in [TEC, Section 61.003\(8\)](#) **before the age of 25***.
2. Request **Form 1810** from DFPS.

Transfer Eligibility

For each institution a student chooses to attend, a new **Form 1810** must be requested from DFPS and then submitted to the institution.

Award Amount

The student may be awarded tuition and all fees authorized by [TEC, Chapter 54](#) (such as lab fees) for any eligible course attempted.

Resources

- [TEC, Section 54.366](#)—Students Under Conservatorship of DFPS
- [TEC, Section 54.367](#)—Adopted Students Formerly in Foster Care
- [40 TAC, Section 700.1630](#)—Tuition and Fee Waiver for Youth Returning to a Parent

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Understanding the FACTS

Eligible students:

- Are not required to be Texas residents when awarded, as long as they meet the DFPS program requirements.
- Are not required to demonstrate financial need.
- Must be registered with Selective Service, or be exempt.
- Must meet the enrollment eligibility requirements before the age of 25*. However, students are **not required to receive** the exemption before the age of 25.
- Can continue receiving the exemption even if they are not meeting the institution's grade point average (GPA) requirement, as long as they are meeting institutional registration requirements.
- Can continue receiving the exemption even if they are enrolled in excessive hours ([TEC, Section 54.014](#)).
- Who meet the enrollment eligibility requirements can receive the exemption while attempting any program of study offered at an eligible institution (i.e., undergraduate, graduate, or doctoral degree).

Understanding the PROCESS

1. Student is admitted at an eligible institution.
2. Student requests a tuition exemption approval letter (**Form 1810**) from DFPS staff.
3. DFPS staff issues **Form 1810** to the student by mail or email, confirming the student's program eligibility at the relevant institution.
4. Eligible student submits **Form 1810** to the institution.
5. Institution verifies enrollment eligibility.
6. Institution verifies each year that the student remains eligible. (Student does not have to reapply each year.)

*Adopted students who were the subject of an adoption assistance agreement may enroll in an institution at any age.