

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) FS (6A-14.0305), 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 reside in Florida while enrolled in the institution as well as any student who is entitled to and using educational assistance from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. (Out-of-state Active Duty members please see #3, below)

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

Yes, this waiver is not discretionary if an individual meets the eligibility requirements.

3. Who is eligible to receive the out-of-state fee waiver?

- (1) Honorably discharged veterans of the United States Armed and Reserve Forces (Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, and Navy) and the National Guard (Army and Air); or
- (2) Any other student who is entitled to and using educational assistance provided by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs who physically resides in Florida while enrolled as a degree or certificate seeking student.
- (3) Active Duty Military members residing or stationed outside of the state of Florida are also eligible for an out-of-state tuition and fee waiver as detailed in Florida Statute 1009.26(14).

Tuition and fees charged to a student who qualifies for the out-of-state fee waiver under this subsection may not exceed the tuition and fees charged a resident student enrolled in the same program.

4. 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, Navy, and Space Force.

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.

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

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

documentation:

- Proof that the veteran is honorably discharged. Information may be found on the veteran's DD214, discharge certificate (Member 4) or other documentation as deemed appropriate by the center
- 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, or Lease/Mortgage Bill.

6. What documentation must a person who is eligible for and receiving educational assistance from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs present to a career center or charter technical career center to be considered for this out-of-state tuition and fee waiver?

- Chapter 31 Veterans Readiness & Employment (VR & E) recipients will submit their VAF 28-1905.
- Other students in receipt of educational assistance from VA will submit their Certificate of Eligibility (COE)
- All students will provide proof of physically residing in the state. This may include, but is not limited to, a Florida driver license or Florida identification card, or Lease Agreement/Mortgage Bill.

7. What documentation must an Active Duty member present to a career center or charter technical career center to be considered for an out-of-state tuition and fee waiver?

- Leave and Earning Statement (LES); OR
- Current active military orders
- Must also provide End of Active Service (EAS)/Expiration of Term of Service (ETS)

8. How does an eligible student apply for the veteran, veteran dependent or Active Duty out-of-state tuition and fee waiver?

Student will submit a copy of their DD214 showing eligible discharge status to Career Advisor at time of enrollment.

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. Are active duty military or National Guard members eligible to receive this out-of-state fee waiver?

Yes, however, Florida Statute 1009.21 (10)(a) and (b) specify that active duty members (within 50 miles of the military establishment where they are stationed), of the U.S. Armed Forces residing or stationed in Florida and active drilling members of the Florida National Guard,

their spouses, and dependent children, ~~aa~~ are classified as residents for tuition purposes.

12. Should the center verify eligibility for each term?

Yes. The center must ensure the veteran physically resides in Florida each term.

13. Will this waiver be automatically applied when an eligible veteran transfers from one institution to another?

No. Each center must verify eligibility each term of enrollment due to the requirement of proof of physical presence in Florida.

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. 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 certain types of state financial aid.

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

Yes. 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).

19. 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.

20. 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.

21. 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.