



WHAT ARE YOUR RIGHTS?



The Florida legislature recently passed a set of laws that allows all Florida high school graduates to be eligible for in-state tuition at state colleges and universities. To receive in-state tuition, once admitted, students must complete the “Florida Residency Declaration for Tuition Purposes” form **AND** meet the following eligibility requirements and provide the listed documents.

ELIGIBILITY & REQUIREMENTS

Undocumented and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) students must¹:

- Have attended a Florida secondary school (e.g. high school) for three consecutive years immediately prior to graduation²
- Apply for admission to an institution of higher education within 24 months of high school graduation
- Submit an official Florida high school transcript(s) as evidence of attendance and graduation
- Submit an out-of-state/non-resident tuition waiver form; which can be located on the institution’s webpage

U.S. citizens with undocumented parents³

- Using the list of documents provided on the “Florida Residency Declaration for Tuition Purposes” form, choose and provide two appropriate forms of residency documentation

Lawful Permanent Resident & certain non-U.S. citizen students⁴

- Using the list of documents provided within Appendix C of the “Guidelines on Florida Residency for Tuition Purposes,” provide the requested documentation of legal status as issued by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Am I eligible for financial aid?

Undocumented & DACA students with a waiver

No. Even with a waiver, students with undocumented or DACA status are considered out-of-state/nonresident students and are not eligible for state or federal financial aid. Regardless of status, you may be eligible for private scholarships or school-specific aid.

U.S. Citizens with undocumented parents/guardian

Yes. Upon completion and verification of residency documentation, a student in this category is eligible to receive state and federal financial aid.

Lawful Permanent Resident & certain non-U.S. citizen students

Lawful Permanent Residents and certain non-U.S. citizen students are eligible for state financial aid. Most students in these categories are eligible for federal financial aid as well. Visit www.studentaid.ed.gov for a complete list of qualifying non-U.S. citizens that can receive federal aid.

2. What schools am I eligible to attend?

All students looking to declare residency for tuition purposes may attend postsecondary educational programs offered by a Florida public higher education institution including a state university, a Florida college system institution, a charter technical career center, or career center operated by a school district.

3. Must eligibility be verified each term/semester?

No. Eligibility verification is only required for initial enrollment. However, a student who transfers to another eligible Florida postsecondary institution may be required to reestablish residency.

1 Per § 1009.26, Fla. Stat. (2014)
2 Currently, only public and private high schools qualify therefore Florida Virtual School, homeschool, and G.E.D. do not qualify
3 Per § 1009.21, Fla. Stat. (2014)
4 Per Fla. Admin. Code R 6A-10.044 & R 72-1.001

We encourage all students to contact their schools for answers to specific questions. Please contact the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) or Florida Immigrant Coalition (FLIC) with any further questions or if you think you are unfairly being denied in-state tuition.

SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER

www.splcenter.org/contact-us
877-751-6183

FLORIDA IMMIGRANT COALITION

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