KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

to IN-STATE TUITION

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 must:
1. Have attended a Florida secondary school (e.g. high school) for three consecutive years immediately prior to graduation.
2. Apply for admission to an institution of higher education within 24 months of high school graduation.
3. Submit an official Florida high school transcript(s) as evidence of attendance and graduation.

U.S. citizens with undocumented parents:
4. 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 students:
5. 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.

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
info@floridaimmigrant.org
888-600-5762

This document is intended as a guide and does not constitute legal advice. The information contained in this document is subject to change. Updated 3/16/16. Students should always meet with school advisors to ensure compliance with all academic guidelines. See www.floridaimmigrant.org for extended FAQs and a detailed guide on how to complete the Florida residency declaration form.

Regulations governing in-state tuition for the state college system and state university system are located within Fla. Admin. Codex 6A-10.044 and 72-1.001, respectively. Per these regulations, all institutions must also provide a residency appeal process, which shall be in writing and prominently displayed on the institution’s website. Incomplete forms are subject to a monetary penalty of $50.

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