



Student eligibility to pay in-state tuition rates at public colleges

Overview

Fall 2004 marks the start of the second academic year during which selected students who would have paid non-resident tuition at Washington's public colleges and universities in the past are eligible for the significantly less expensive in-state rate.

Enacted in 2003, the law is aimed at reducing the cost of college attendance for students who are not permanent residents or citizens of the United States. The new law is making tuition more affordable for a group of students who have not traditionally pursued a college education. Students who qualify for resident tuition status can save as much as \$11,000 per year compared to the non-resident rate.

Provisions of the 2003 resident tuition law

The new law, which took effect in July 2003 and is known by its legislative designation as House Bill 1079, offers residency status for tuition purposes to all students who:

-- Have lived in Washington state for three years immediately before receiving a high school diploma, and who have completed the full senior year at a Washington high school,

Or

-- Have completed the equivalent of a high school diploma and have lived in Washington state for the three years immediately before receiving the equivalent of the diploma,

And

-- Have continuously lived in the state since earning the high school diploma or its equivalent.

Students who meet these criteria must submit an affidavit to the college they wish to attend, indicating that they will file an application to become a permanent resident of the state at the earliest opportunity they are eligible to apply, and expressing a willingness to engage in activities necessary to acquire citizenship.

Students who qualify for resident status under the new law are **not** eligible for publicly funded, need-based student financial aid.

How to get more information about the resident tuition law

Information about the 2003 residency law is available for students and educators from a number of sources.

Washington's public colleges and universities can provide information about the law and copies of the affidavit that students must sign to receive resident tuition status. *Students* should be encouraged to contact the admissions office at the public colleges or universities they are interested in attending. In addition, most public college and university Web sites include information about the new law.

The Higher Education Coordinating Board, which has been working with the colleges to implement the statute, maintains up-to-date information and the affidavit on its Web site at www.hecb.wa.gov