2026-27 State Programs and Procedures Manual

for Financial Aid Professionals

MiLEAP
Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential

Office of Higher Education

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF
LIFELONG EDUCATION, ADVANCEMENT, AND POTENTIAL
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

DR. BEVERLY WALKER-GRIFFEA
DIRECTOR

Dear Financial Aid Administrator:

The Office of Higher Education, a division within the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP), works to remove barriers for Michigan students by providing State financial aid programs, resources, and information.

MiLEAP administers State financial aid and Outreach resource programs. Our programs provide over $672.5 million to more than 166,000 students annually. We cannot do the work that we do without relying on our partners; high school counselors, college access professionals, and YOU!

The Office of Higher Education ensures that every Michigander has the skill certificate or degree they need to prosper, and help employers hire the talent they need to succeed. The Office of Higher Education is responsible for:

- Determining eligibility and managing funds for State financial aid programs.
- Supporting the State's Sixty by 30 goal, where by 2030, 60% of working-age Michiganders will have a certificate or college degree.
- Maintaining data transparency and reporting in our management of State-funded scholarship programs, as well as in progress tracking towards our postsecondary attainment goals, to ensure equitable access to educational pathways to success for all our students regardless of age, income, race/ethnicity, or where they live.
- Educating Michigan citizens by promoting postsecondary education, financial education, and financial aid options to Michigan students and families.

The *State Programs and Procedures Manual - For Financial Aid Professionals* provides an overview of the programs we offer and the eligibility requirements. Our goal is to help you assist your students by providing information on the administration of Michigan's scholarship and grant programs and to maintain compliance with the administration of State financial aid programs.

As our partner, we want to work with you. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact our Customer Care Center at 888-447-2687 or MiStudentAid@Michigan.gov. We appreciate your support as we work together to help Michigan students make college accessible, affordable, and attainable.

Sincerely,

Diann Cosme

Diann Cosme
Director | Student Aid and Access
Office of Higher Education
Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential

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Chapter I - Overview of the Office of Higher Education

Role of the Office of Higher Education

The Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP) - Office of Higher Education, works to remove barriers for Michigan students by providing State financial aid programs, resources, and information.

The Office of Higher Education works to ensure that every Michigander has the skill certificate or degree they need to prosper, and help employers hire the talent they need to succeed. The Office of Higher Education is responsible for:

- Determining eligibility and managing funds for State financial aid programs.
- Supporting the State's Sixty by 30 goal, where by 2030, 60% of working-age Michiganders will have a certificate or college degree.
- Maintaining data transparency and reporting in our management of State-funded scholarship programs, as well as in progress tracking toward our postsecondary attainment goals, to ensure equitable access to educational pathways to success for all our students regardless of age, income, race/ethnicity, or where they live.
- Educating Michigan citizens by promoting postsecondary education, financial education, and financial aid options to Michigan students and families.

The Office of Higher Education Customer Care Center

The Customer Care Center assists students, families, high school counselors, college financial aid offices, and college access professionals with general questions about types of financial aid available, State financial aid eligibility, how to search for scholarships, assist with accessing MiSSG, and more.

Contact the Customer Care Center:

- Phone: 888-447-2687
- Email: MiStudentAid@Michigan.gov

Program Coordinators

The program coordinators work to administer the State financial aid programs and are available to assist financial aid professionals.

Programs	Coordinator	Email
Children of Veterans Tuition Grant	Christy Williams	WilliamsC96@Michigan.gov
Dual Enrollment	Christy Williams	WilliamsC96@Michigan.gov
Fostering Futures Scholarship	Stephanie Dillon	DillonS7@Michigan.gov
Futures for Frontliners Scholarship	Don Florinchi	FlorinchiD@Michigan.gov
MI Future Educator Fellowship	Sarah McGann	McGannS@Michigan.gov
MI Future Educator Stipend	Sarah McGann	McGannS@Michigan.gov
MI GEAR UP Scholarship	Stephanie Dillon	DillonS7@Michigan.gov
Michigan Achievement Scholarship	Sarah Laycock	LaycockS@Michigan.gov
Michigan Achievement Scholarship Community College Guarantee	Sarah Laycock Caroline Nurenberg	LaycockS@Michigan.gov NurenbergC4@Michigan.gov
Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship	Don Florinchi	FlorinchiD@Michigan.gov
Michigan Competitive Scholarship	Caroline Nurenberg	NurenbergC4@Michigan.gov
Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver	Erin Burd	BurdE@Michigan.gov
Michigan Reconnect Scholarship/Michigan Reconnect Expansion	Don Florinchi	FlorinchiD@Michigan.gov

Programs	Coordinator	Email
Michigan Tuition Grant	Caroline Nurenberg	NurenbergC4@Michigan.gov
Police Officer's and Fire Fighter's Survivor Tuition Grant	Christy Williams	WilliamsC96@Michigan.gov
Tuition Incentive Program	Stephanie Dillon	DillonS7@Michigan.gov
Program Reviews	Jessica Hamelink	MiProgramReviews@Michigan.gov

GovDelivery Emails

Updates and information regarding programs, policies, and more are emailed to subscribers via GovDelivery. Previous GovDelivery emails can be found on our Web site.

If you currently do not receive our GovDelivery emails, you can join the listserv for financial aid administrators. Please review and reference these messages to keep up to date on important State financial aid program information.

Online Services

The Office of Higher Education Web site at Michigan.gov/MiLEAP/higher-education, provides support to students, families, and professionals with online resources.

- Details on State financial aid programs are available at Michigan.gov/MiStudentAid.
- Details on College Aid Administrators Training is available at College Administrator Training.
- Details on Sixty by 30 initiatives are available at Michigan.gov/MiLEAP/higher-education/sixty-by-30.

Publications

Digital publications are available at Michigan.gov/MiStudentAid.

- Michigan Indian Tuition Waive Flyer is available at Michigan.gov/MITW.
- Native American Resource Guide is available at: nai.msu.edu/resources.
- Reconnect publications are available at Michigan.gov/Reconnect/toolkit.

Funding

The Michigan legislature appropriates funds each fiscal year. The following Web site provides historical and current funding levels by program.

Calendar Definitions and Schedule

Three types of 'years' are defined by the Office of Higher Education:

- A calendar year is January 1 through December 31.
- A fiscal year is October 1 through September 30.
- An academic year is September 1 through August 31.

Summer Term

The Office of Higher Education considers summer to be the trailer for all State financial aid programs.

Non-standard Term

Students enrolled in a non-standard term may be eligible for State financial aid programs if they meet the individual program eligibility requirements. Institutions should retain detailed records for students in this situation that include dates of enrollment for each semester/term and the correlating semester/term the student was paid in MiSSG. It is suggested that when performing certification/request for reimbursement for non-standard terms, the institution chooses the semester/term that most overlaps the dates of the non-standard term.

Within an academic year, postsecondary institutions have either semesters or terms, which will change the effective start dates used during the payment process and to evaluate student awards.

Semester	Semester Name in MiSSG	Start Date Used for Evaluation
1st	Fall	August 23, 2026
2nd	Spring	January 7, 2027
3rd	Summer	May 4, 2027

Term	Term Name in MiSSG	Start Date Used for Evaluation
1st	Fall	August 23, 2026
2nd	Winter	January 6, 2027
3rd	Spring	March 29, 2027
4th	Summer	June 21, 2027

Program Types

Reimbursement Programs

Programs in which students are determined to be initially eligible by MiSSG, but no awards are generated.

Certification Programs

Programs in which students are determined to be initially eligible by MiSSG and awards are generated automatically.

Reimbursement Programs	Certification Programs
Children of Veterans Tuition Grant	Fostering Futures Scholarship
Futures for Frontliners Scholarship	MI Future Educator Stipend
MI Future Educator Fellowship	MI GEAR UP Scholarship
Michigan Reconnect Scholarship/Michigan Reconnect Expansion	Michigan Achievement Scholarship/Community College Guarantee
Nonpublic Dual Enrollment	Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship
Police Officer's and Fire Fighter's Survivors Tuition Grant	Michigan Competitive Scholarship
Tuition Incentive Program	Michigan Tuition Grant

Note: Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver funding is appropriated from the State Budget directly to institutions.

Certification and Reimbursement Request Availability

Exact dates for each program will be announced through GovDelivery emails as each term's certification or reimbursement request window draws near.

Semester Name in MiSSG	Availability Date	Notes
Fall	September 30, 2026	MI Stipend is available September 1, 2026
Spring	January 7, 2027	-
Summer	April 16, 2027	If program allows for summer awarding.

Term Name in MiSSG	Availability Date	Notes
Fall	September 30, 2026	MI Stipend is available September 1, 2026
Winter	January 6, 2027	-
Spring	January 7, 2027	-
Summer	April 16, 2027	If program allows for summer awarding.

Chapter II - Applying for State Financial Aid Programs

Program Application and Deadline Summary for 2026-27

Program	Application Available	Application Deadline	FAFSA Submission Deadline
Children of Veteran Tuition Grant	January 1, 2026	June 30, 2027	June 30, 2027
Fostering Futures Scholarship	March 15, 2026	December 31, 2026	June 30, 2027
Futures for Frontliners	Closed Permanently	December 31, 2020	June 30, 2027
MI Future Educator Fellowship*	May 1, 2026	June 15, 2027	June 30, 2027
MI Future Educator Stipend	May 1, 2026, Fall November 1, 2026, Winter/Spring April 1, 2027, Summer	July 15, 2027	n/a
MI GEAR UP Scholarship	n/a	Prior to 4th Quarter Payment	June 30, 2027
Michigan Achievement Scholarship	n/a	Prior to 4th Quarter Payment	June 30, 2027
Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship	March 1, 2026	August 1, 2027	n/a
Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver	Ongoing	Prior to the end of the enrolling semester/term.	n/a
Michigan Reconnect	n/a	Prior to 4th Quarter Payment	June 30, 2027
Michigan Reconnect Expansion	Closed Permanently	December 31, 2024	June 30, 2027
Michigan Competitive Scholarship	n/a	July 1, 2026	July 1, 2026
Michigan Tuition Grant	n/a	July 1, 2026	July 1, 2026
Police Officer's and Fire Fighter's Survivor Tuition Grant	January 1, 2026	June 30, 2027	June 30, 2027

*Note: For MI Fellowship, institutions may begin reviewing Confirmation of Eligibility September 1, 2026, and must complete Confirmation of Eligibility no later than July 1, 2027. Eligible MI Fellowship students must sign their Commitment to Teach in Michigan Agreement (CTMA) no later than July 15, 2027.

FAFSA Requirements

To be eligible for most State financial aid programs, a student must have a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on file in MiSSG. The following programs do not require a FAFSA to be filed:

- Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship
- MI Future Educator Stipend
- Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver

MiSSG uses the data in the Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR) to evaluate eligibility for State

financial aid programs and make initial awards. Students should be receiving their State financial aid at the same institution they are receiving their Title IV aid.

FAFSA Transaction Updates

CLARIFIED! MiSSG will load all Michigan residents 2026-27 FAFSA transactions; including subsequent transactions through July 10, 2027 (unless a student has an award certified or paid reimbursement for Academic Year 2026-27).

If an ISIR needs to be loaded into MiSSG for a non-Michigan resident, email MiStudentAid@Michgian.gov.

Note: For ISIR loads, Michigan residents are defined as the parent/contributor state of residence for dependent students and the student's state of residence for independent students.

FAFSA Status

Completed FAFSA

The FAFSA must be submitted, completed, and verified (if required) for the following programs:

- Fostering Futures Scholarship
- Michigan Achievement Scholarship/Community College Guarantee
- Michigan Competitive Scholarship
- Michigan Tuition Grant

The FAFSA must be submitted. It does not have to be completed or verified (except identity verification) to qualify for these programs:

- Children of Veterans Tuition Grant
- Futures for Frontliners
- MI Future Educator Fellowship
- MI GEAR UP Scholarship
- Michigan Reconnect Scholarship
- Michigan Reconnect Expansion
- Police Officer's and Fire Fighter's Survivor Tuition Grant
- Tuition Incentive Program

If a student is selected for identity verification, this process **must be completed** before **any** State financial aid can be awarded (including programs that only require a submitted FAFSA). This requirement is in accordance with Federal Student Aid's Electronic Announcement: APP-25-16.

NEW! If a student has a FAFSA with Reject Codes 74 or 75, the student will be ineligible for all State financial aid programs (unless the institution has successfully verified the student's identity). This guidance is in accordance with Federal Student Aid's Electronic Announcement: APP-26-03.

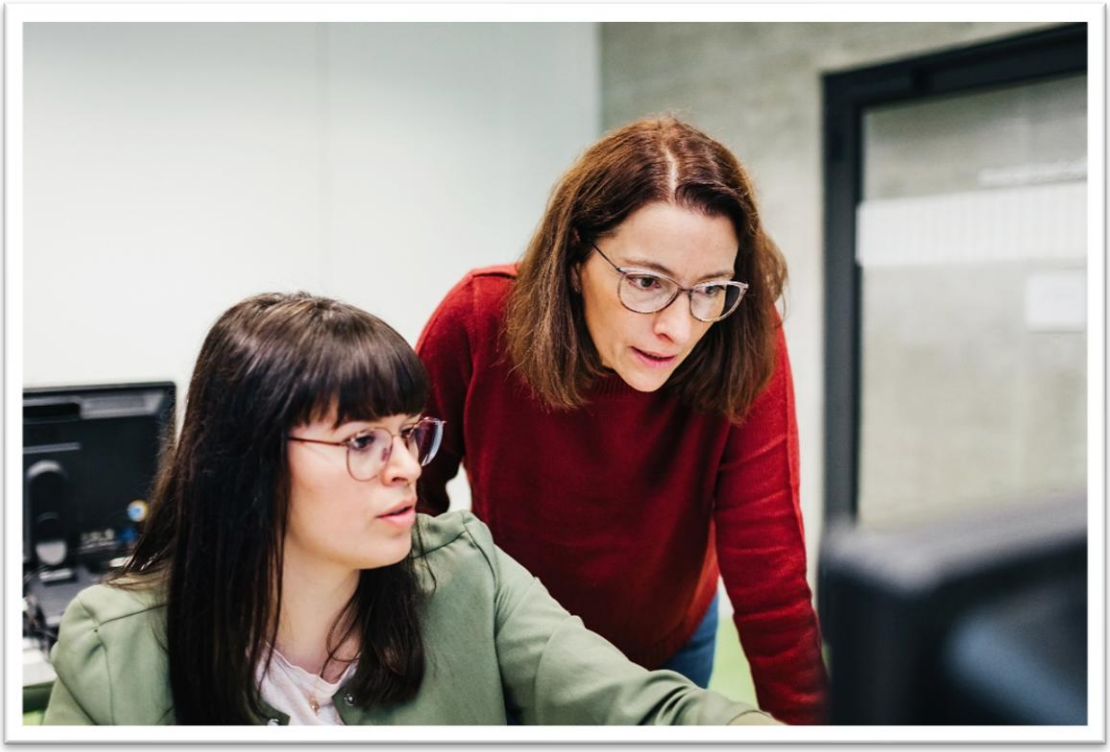
Note: These identity verification requirements do not apply to the Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver (MITW).

The following State financial aid programs also require an additional application:

- Children of Veterans Tuition Grant (One time only special application.)
- ***NEW!*** Fostering Futures Scholarship (One time special application required.)
- Futures for Frontliners (One time only special application, closed.)
- MI Future Educator Fellowship (Annual special application required.)
- MI Future Educator Stipend (Annual special application required.)
- Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver (One time only special application.)
- Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship (Annual special application required.)
- Michigan Reconnect (One time only special application.)
- Michigan Reconnect Expansion (One time only special application.)
- Police Officer's and Fire Fighter's Survivor Tuition Grant (One time only special application.)

Program specific applications are available in the MiSSG Student Portal.

Chapter III - Program Eligibility Requirements



High School Completion Requirements

For State financial aid programs, high school completion is considered:

- High school diploma; or
- Certificate of completion or its recognized equivalent.

Home-schooled students may be eligible if the institution accepts the home-school documents as proof of high school completion. For Michigan Achievement Scholarship and Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship, if the institution accepts the home-school documents as proof of high school completion and the student meets all other eligibility requirements, they will be eligible for the award.

The following programs require proof of high school completion:

- MI GEAR UP Scholarship (MI GEAR UP)
- Michigan Achievement Scholarship/Community College Guarantee
- Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship
- Michigan Competitive Scholarship (MCS)*
- Michigan Tuition Grant (MTG)*
- Tuition Incentive Program (TIP)

The following programs do not require proof of high school completion:

- Children of Veterans Tuition Grant (CVTG)
- Fostering Futures Scholarship (FFS)
- Futures for Frontliners
- ***NEW!*** MI Future Educator Fellowship
- MI Future Educator Stipend
- Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver (MITW)
- Michigan Reconnect/Reconnect Expansion
- Police Officer's and Fire Fighter's Survivor Tuition Grant (STG)

*The High School Completion Substitution Form may be used by the institution for MCS and MTG students who have not met the high school completion requirement. The form must be on file prior to payment.

Notes:

- High school graduation completion information may be confirmed in the Student Information section of MiSSG. If the 'HS Grad Confirmed by CEPI' indicates "Yes," this can be used as documentation for a program review. If the status is "No" or blank, the institution must provide proof of high school completion.
- For Futures for Frontliners, students must have graduated from high school with a diploma or earned an equivalency certificate by December 31, 2020.
    - Applicants are self-attesting that they have a high school diploma already and do not have an associate or bachelor's degree yet. Community colleges are not responsible for doing an independent verification of past educational history when reviewing an applicant's eligibility for F4F.
- For Reconnect/Reconnect Expansion purposes, self-certification (on the Reconnect scholarship application and the FAFSA) of high school completion is acceptable.

Acceptable and Unacceptable Proof of High School Completion

NEW! *Acceptable Documentation*

- Standard High School Completion Documentation (high school diploma, official high school transcript showing graduation date, certificate of completion (except for Futures for Frontliners and Michigan Reconnect/Reconnect Expansion), high school equivalency credential).
- Home-school Documentation (institutionally accepted home-school completion records).

NEW! *Unacceptable Documentation*

- Unofficial high school transcript.
- Postsecondary credential or certificate earned.

Updating High School Graduation in MiSSG

When a high school graduation year is inaccurate or missing from a student's record in MiSSG, institutions should update the high school graduation year and month in MiSSG. Please review the following instructions, 'How to Update High School Graduate Year.'

High School Completion and Mid-year/Off-cycle Awards

Students must complete their high school requirements before the start date of their coursework for the semester/term at their institution to be considered for State financial aid. Institutions are responsible for verifying the student met their high school completion requirements prior to the semester/term start date they begin awarding State financial aid. Institutions will need to contact the Office of Higher Education to initiate a system override for students in this scenario.

Example: Student graduated high school May 28, 2026 and enrolled for Summer 2026 courses. Their courses begin on June 30, 2026, this student is eligible to receive State financial aid for the summer.

Note: For programs with maximum semester/term/year limits, the summer award will count toward award limits.

Residency Requirements

Except for the MI Future Educator Stipend, State financial aid programs require Michigan residency.

A student is considered to have met the Michigan residency requirements if the date of residency from the FAFSA is on or before July 1 of the preceding calendar year.

For example, in Academic Year 2026-27, the date of residency must have been on or before July 1, 2025.

A student's dependency status will determine if student and/or parent data will be used for determining residency:

- If the applicant is a dependent student, the first contributor's state and date of residency on the FAFSA is used to determine Michigan residency. The applicant's address from the FAFSA and the MiSSG student record is also used to evaluate residency.
- If the applicant is an independent student, the applicant's state and date of residency from the FAFSA is used to determine Michigan residency.

Note: If an independent student, or the contributor on the FAFSA of a dependent student, resides outside of the state after Michigan residency was determined, then the student would remain eligible for Academic Year 2026-27.

Program Specific Residency Requirements

CVTG Application Residency

A student is considered to have met the CVTG application residency requirements if the date of Michigan residency is at least 12 months prior to the date of the CVTG application.

Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship Application Residency

A student is considered to have met the Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship residency requirement if they have maintained continuous Michigan residency for at least the immediately preceding year.

- The student is considered meeting this criterion if they can verify that they have been a Michigan resident for at least one year by the start of the semester/program.

Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver Residency

A student is considered to have met the MITW residency requirement if they are a legal resident of Michigan and resided in Michigan for at least twelve consecutive months prior to the time of their MITW application. Students are verified through one of the following methods:

1. Office of Higher Education confirmation of the establishment of legal residency via access to Secretary of State (SOS) records (verifying that the student has established legal residency with SOS by, for example, obtaining a driver's license or State ID or registering to vote).
2. If SOS records cannot demonstrate legal residency, a Tribal ID that includes a Michigan address

and an issuance date at least 12 months prior to the MITW application can be reviewed to demonstrate legal residency.

Reconnect Application Residency

- For Reconnect: An applicant must have maintained continuous Michigan residency for at least the immediately preceding year.
    - For Reconnect purposes:
        - An independent student is considered meeting this criterion if they can verify that they have been a Michigan resident for at least one year by the start of the semester.
        - ***NEW!*** A dependent student is considered meeting this criterion if the contributor(s) on the FAFSA is also a Michigan resident since July 1 of the previous calendar year.
- For Reconnect Expansion: An applicant must be a Michigan resident since July 1 of the previous calendar year.
    - If the applicant is a dependent student, the contributor(s) on the FAFSA must also be a Michigan resident since July 1 of the previous calendar year.

STG Application Residency

A student is considered to have met the STG application residency requirements if the date of Michigan residency is at least 12 months prior to the date of the STG application.

Updating a Student's Residency

If MiSSG is unable to evaluate a student's residency status or the determination was incorrect, then an institution may update the student's application. Please see instructions for the Clear Ineligible Reasons List in the MiSSG Manual for Aid Administrators for further details.

Documents that could be used to update a student's residency determination:

- State/Federal tax returns or statements
- Michigan voter/vehicle registration or driver's license
- Utility bills, rent receipts, or property tax statements
- Any documents denoting Michigan residency

Notes:

- During program reviews, an institution may be asked to provide copies of the supporting documents used to determine a student's residency.
- MITW residency cannot be updated by the institution. All MITW residency evaluations are performed by the Office of Higher Education. If an institution believes the evaluation is incorrect or has changed, they must contact Erin Burd at BurdE@Michigan.gov.

Citizenship Requirements

If the student is neither a citizen nor an eligible non-citizen, the student is not eligible for most State financial aid programs. MI Future Educator Fellowship, MI Future Educator Stipend, Michigan Reconnect, and Reconnect Expansion do not require U.S. Citizenship. The Office of Higher Education adheres to the U.S. Department of Education's U.S. Citizenship and Eligible Noncitizens definition.

U.S. citizen (or U.S. national) if student is:

- A United States citizen by birth or by naturalization.
- A person (except for the children of foreign diplomatic staff) who is born in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and in most cases, Puerto Rico (PR), the U.S. Virgin Islands (VI), Guam (GU), and the Northern Marianna Islands (MP) are U.S. citizens, as are most persons born abroad to parents (or a parent) who are citizens.
- All U.S. citizens are considered to be U.S. nationals, but not all nationals are citizens: natives of American Samoa and Swain's Island (AS) are not U.S. citizens, but are nationals.

Eligible non-citizen if student is not a U.S. citizen (or U.S. national) and is one of the following:

- A U.S. permanent resident, with a Permanent Resident Card (I-551), or a conditional permanent resident with a Conditional Green Card (I-551C).
- Other eligible non-citizen with an Arrival-Departure Record (I-94) from the Department of Homeland Security showing any one of the following designations: "Refugee," "Asylum Granted," "Parolee" (I-94 confirms that you were paroled for a minimum of one year and status has not expired), T-Visa holder (T-1, T-2, T-3, etc.), "Ukrainian Citizens and Nationals," "Afghan Citizens and Nationals Paroled into the U.S. Between July 31, 2021 and September 30, 2023," "Cuban-Haitian Entrant."
- The holder of a valid certification or eligibility letter from the Department of Health and Human Services showing a designation of "Victim of human trafficking."
- Battered or Abused Spouses or Children-Qualified Noncitizens, formerly known as Battered Immigrants-Qualified Aliens, are victims of domestic violence by their U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident (LPR) spouses, former spouses, or parent. They may, with their designated children, self-petition for immigration classification under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).)
- A resident of the Republic of Palau (PW), the Republic of the Marshall Islands (MH), or the Federated States of Micronesia (FM).
- A Canadian-born Native American under terms of the Jay Treaty.

Neither citizen nor eligible non-citizen if student is in the U.S. and has:

- Been granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)
- A F1, F2, or M-1 student Visa
- A NATO Visa
- An A1, A2, and A3 Visa (foreign official, including attendants)
- A B-1 or B-2 Visitor Visa
- A J1 or J2 exchange Visitor Visa
- A H series or L series Visa (which allow temporary employment in the U.S.)
- A G series visa (pertaining to international organizations)
- Other categories not included under U.S. citizen and eligible non-citizen

Institutions must inform the Office of Higher Education of any students who are currently considered eligible for an award (any program) within MiSSG, but do not meet the above definitions for eligible citizenship status.

MITW Citizenship Requirements

Students must be an enrolled citizen of a Federally Recognized Tribe as identified by the United States, which is certified though the application process by the student's Tribal Enrollment Department and by an enrollment officer.

Note: State/historic Tribes and Canadian First Nations are not recognized by the U.S. government and, therefore, are not eligible.

Participating Institutions

To receive State financial aid, students must be enrolled at a participating institution located in Michigan. The following types of institutions qualify:

- Public universities
- Public community colleges
- Tribal colleges
- Eligible non-profit colleges and universities
- Eligible career training providers and programs (for the Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship only)
- Educator Preparation Programs (for the MI Future Educator Fellowship and Stipend only)

A current list of participating institutions is available on the Office of Higher Education Web site.

Each scholarship program is authorized by state law and the criteria for which eligible institutions may participate are included in the statute. Not all institutions are eligible to participate in every State financial aid program.

Eligibility Criteria for Participating Non-profit Colleges and Universities

To qualify as **a participating non-public, degree-granting institution**, the following criteria must be met:

- **State Authorization**: Must be an authorized Educational Corporation in Michigan and meet the five adequacy standards set by the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity's (LEO) Office of Postsecondary Schools:
    1. Adequate housing space and administrative facilities
    2. Adequate laboratory, library, and teaching facilities
    3. Qualified instructional staff
    4. Quality educational program (must be accredited and degree-granting)
    5. Demonstrated financial viability
- **Institution Type**: Must be non-profit, non-public degree-granting institution.
- **Academic Programs**: Must offer undergraduate programs that are not comprised solely of religious studies.
- **Federal Aid Eligibility**: Must participate in Title IV Federal Student Aid programs.
- **Operational Presence**: Institutions must offer in-person, undergraduate programs for instruction in Michigan. Hybrid and online options may be available, but an in-person component must be available.
- **Tuition Restraint**: Institutions must comply with tuition restraint to receive certain State financial aid, including the Michigan Achievement Scholarship, MI Future Educator Fellowship, and MI Future Educator Stipend.

Non-public institutions interested in becoming eligible should visit the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) Web site or contact the Office of Postsecondary Schools at 517-335-5858 or PSS@Michigan.gov. LEO's Office of Postsecondary Schools holds the statutory authority for approving non-public institutions under the Michigan General Corporation Act (PA 327 of 1931). MiLEAP assesses institutions annually to maintain a current list of participating institutions. Institutions can contact MiLEAP – Office of Higher Education regarding this process at 888-447-2687 or MiStudentAid@Michigan.gov.

Enrollment Requirements

Enrollment Status

Eligible students must be enrolled at least half-time for most State financial aid programs and the student must be pursuing a certificate, associate, or bachelor's degree. Half-time is defined as a minimum of six (6) credit hours.

Notes:

- Michigan Achievement Scholarship/Community College Guarantee requires full-time enrollment, see program page for more information.
- MI Future Educator Fellowship and MI Future Educator Stipend requires full-time enrollment, see program page for more information.
- Futures for Frontliners and Reconnect do not require half-time enrollment.
- There is no minimum or maximum enrollment for MITW.

Program Eligibility

NEW! Students may use State financial aid at an eligible institution when enrolled in an eligible certificate or degree-granting program. Certificate programs must be at least 24 semester credits (or the clock-hour equivalent) **and** include a minimum of 30 weeks of instruction or 26 weeks of instruction time if the program is offered in clock hours completed within a 12-month period.

Institutions must convert clock-hour billing to credit-hour billing when requesting payment from the Office of Higher Education.

Note: Program specific requirements include the following clarifications:

- **Tuition Incentive Program (TIP)**

    - Phase II: Students must be enrolled in a bachelor's degree program.
- **Michigan Reconnect / Futures for Frontliners / Reconnect Expansion**
    - Be admitted to, and enrolled in, a Pell-eligible program at an eligible institution leading to an associate degree or industry-recognized certificate or credential.
- **MI Future Educator Fellowship and Stipend**
    - Students must be admitted to, and enrolled in an eligible Educator Preparation Program leading to teacher certification.
- **Michigan Achievement Scholarship and Community College Guarantee**
    - Students must be enrolled full-time in an eligible certificate or degree-granting program. Courses outside of their program may be included in their full-time calculations.
- **Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship**
    - Students must be enrolled in an eligible Career Training Program.
- **Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver**
    - Eligibility is not limited by degree level, certificate length, enrollment status, or number of credentials pursued, consistent with statute.

Acceptable Courses

State financial aid programs will award a student for:

- Courses within their certificate or degree program:
    - F4F
    - Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship
    - MI Stipend
    - Reconnect
    - Reconnect Expansion
    - STG
    - TIP
- Courses outside their certificate or degree program:
    - CVTG
    - FFS
    - MI Fellowship
    - MI GEAR UP
    - Michigan Achievement Scholarship/Community College Guarantee
    - Michigan Competitive Scholarship
    - Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver
    - Michigan Tuition Grant
- Remedial coursework
    - See specific requirements for F4F, Reconnect, and Reconnect Expansion.
- Prerequisite requirements
- Transfer guideline requirements
- Repeating courses to achieve a passing grade
    - Allows for a previously passed course to be repeated a maximum once per course. In cases where institutional or program-specific policies require a higher qualitative grade or measure to be recognized as a passing mark, a student may continue to be awarded State financial aid.

NEW! Note: Audited courses cannot be covered by State financial aid programs.

Loan Default

An award is prohibited to any student who has defaulted on a Federal Title IV loan (except MITW, Reconnect, and Reconnect Expansion) unless the student has met the satisfactory loan repayment arrangement requirements.

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) and Grade Point Average (GPA)

GPA and SAP are to be monitored separately.

GPA

Michigan Competitive Scholarship

A student must have at least a cumulative 2.0 GPA at the beginning of an academic year to receive any MCS awards in the same academic year.

Children of Veterans Tuition Grant

A student must have at least a cumulative 2.25 GPA at the beginning of an academic year to receive any CVTG awards in the same academic year. Please see CVTG program rules for additional requirements regarding CVTG, GPA, and continuing students.

MI Future Educator Fellowship

A student must have a minimum cumulative 3.0 GPA prior to the initial award period of the academic year. The GPA is to be monitored once per award year. If the student is a transfer student or attempting an advanced degree, and has no institutional GPA, the institution should consider the student's most recent postsecondary GPA or may consider an average of all previous postsecondary GPAs, whichever is more favorable to the student.

SAP

Students must meet and maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP), as monitored by your institution. Students may not have any reimbursement requests submitted or awards certified if they are not considered to be meeting your institution's SAP policy.

Note: MI Future Educator Stipend and MITW does not require students to be meeting SAP.

GPA/SAP for Futures for Frontliners/Path 2 and Reconnect/Expansion

Students must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP), as defined by the institution, or a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 at the institution since becoming a F4F or Reconnect participant after the academic year in which a student was required to earn and earned 12 credit hours.

- If the student did not earn 12 credit hours and was required to earn 12 credit hours report student as not meeting minimum credit hours earned.
- If the institution is calculating the student's cumulative minimum 2.0 GPA, grades earned prior to the student's participation in F4F/Reconnect are not to be considered in the calculation.
- ***CLARIFIED!*** At the end of the academic year, after confirming the student earned 12 credit hours, if the student does not meet SAP and also does not meet the required minimum GPA, the student must be reported in MiSSG as 'SAP and GPA Not Met' and the student will no longer be eligible to continue with the scholarship program.

Selective Service

Registering with Selective Service is not a requirement for State financial aid programs.

Incarceration, Felony, and Drug Offenses

- For CVTG, a student must not have been convicted of a felony involving an assault, physical injury, or death.
- For MCS and MTG, a student must not be incarcerated.
- Drug offenses do not affect a student's eligibility for State financial aid programs.

Online Courses

The Office of Higher Education adheres to the Federal definition of "distance education" as defined in the Federal Student Aid Handbook Glossary | Knowledge Center.

> *"Training that uses one or more technologies including, but not limited to, the internet, open broadcast, audio conferencing, or other media to deliver instruction to students who are separated from the instructor and to support regular and substantive interaction between the students and the instructor."*

- Students may receive State financial aid programs for distance education courses under these conditions:
    - The courses must belong to an eligible program.
    - The institution must have the capability to effectively deliver distance education programs as determined by an approved accrediting agency.
- It is at the discretion of the institution whether or not to include any distance education classes when requesting payment from the Office of Higher Education.
- Distance education course-specific fees can be covered by State financial aid programs.
- Tuition will only be reimbursed up to the approved in-district rate (unless an out-of-district rate was approved for TIP) for the following programs:
    - Futures for Frontliners/Path 2
    - Michigan Achievement Scholarship Community College Guarantee
    - Michigan Reconnect/Expansion
    - Tuition Incentive Program

Consortium Agreements

Consortium agreements offer students the opportunity to take courses at a different institution (called a "host" institution) while earning credits that can count toward the student's degree at their home institution. A consortium agreement can be a blanket agreement between two or more eligible institutions, or it can be written for a specific student. Such an agreement is often used when a student takes related courses at neighboring institutions or when a student is enrolled in an exchange program with another eligible institution for a semester/term or more. An institution could have one agreement for each student, a separate agreement with each host institution, or a blanket agreement with a group of institutions.

Under a consortium agreement, a student may take courses at another institution and have them count toward the degree or certificate at the home institution. If a home institution has a signed consortium agreement with the host institution (either as a blanket or individual) the courses taken at the host institution should be treated as though the student is taking them at their home institution – both for enrollment purposes and award amounts. For the purposes of administering State financial aid, the home institution must maintain information on the student's eligibility, how the award is calculated, disburse the aid, and any other documentation associated with the award, even if the documentation comes from other institutions.

For the following programs that cover a community college's "in-district" tuition rate, the scholarship must be awarded at the home institution's in-district rate minus gift aid for credit hours taken as part of a consortium:

- Futures for Frontliners/Path 2
- Michigan Achievement Scholarship Community College Guarantee
- Michigan Reconnect/Expansion
- Tuition Incentive Program

Notes:

- If the host institution's tuition rate is less than the home institution's in-district tuition rate, the lesser of the two rates must be used when calculating the award.
- A 'TIP Phase I' home institution may award TIP Phase I at the home institution's out-of-district rate for approved out-of-district students.
- A 'TIP Phase II Only' institution may not submit a Phase I reimbursement request.
- A 'TIP Phase I and Phase II' institution may only submit a Phase I reimbursement request for a consortium student if the student meets the requirements for Phase I at the home institution.
- Students enrolling in courses offered through Michigan Colleges Online (MCO) must be treated the same as consortium tuition charges.

Guest Students

Students who are identified as guest students at your institution may receive State financial aid program funds if they meet the following:

- Have been a legal resident since July 1 of the previous calendar year, and
- Credits earned at your institution will be transferred and applied to a certificate or degree at their home institution, and
- They are currently enrolled in a degree-seeking or certification program at their home institution, and
- The Guest Student Designation Form has been completed. (Institutions must keep this form with the student's financial aid records.)

Notes:

- ***NEW!*** Students are not required to have a FAFSA on file at their guest institution. (FAFSA data will be viewable in MiSSG).
- ***NEW!*** The guest institution is required to confirm proof of high school completion.
- Students may not receive funds at two institutions at the same time, except for Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver.
- TIP students may not use Phase I funds if they have previously received Phase II funds.
- Guest students are not eligible for F4F, Reconnect, and Reconnect Expansion.
- ***CLARIFIED!*** Michigan Achievement Scholarship Community College Guarantee students may still be considered for the Michigan Achievement Scholarship Bonus if they are Pell eligible, but not receiving Pell.
- ***NEW!*** Courses outside of the student's degree program may count toward both the enrollment requirement and the award amount for **allowable** programs (see Acceptable Courses). This includes:
    - CVTG
    - FFS
    - MI GEAR UP
    - Michigan Achievement Scholarship/Community College Guarantee
    - Michigan Competitive Scholarship
    - Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver
    - Michigan Tuition Grant
- ***NEW!*** The home and guest institution will need to communicate with one another to verify guest student policies are met.

Study Abroad

Students who are participating in a study abroad program may receive State financial aid program funds if:

- They are taking courses within their degree-seeking or certification program at a participating Michigan institution, and
- Tuition is being billed and paid to the Michigan institution at the Michigan institution's tuition rate.

Note: For Michigan Achievement Scholarship, courses outside of the student's degree program may count toward both the enrollment requirement and the award amount.

Chapter IV – Program Details

Children of Veterans Tuition Grant

Contact

Program Coordinator: Christy Williams, WilliamsC96@Michigan.gov

Description

Provides undergraduate tuition assistance to students who are the natural or adopted child of a qualified Michigan veteran who has died or become totally and permanently disabled due to a service-connected illness or injury, or missing in action (MIA), as a result of military service.

Application

Students must complete an initial application (one time only). The deadline to apply is June 30, 2027.

- The 2026-27 application was available January 1, 2026.
- The 2027-28 applications is available October 1, 2026.

To complete an initial application or check the status, the student can log into the MiSSG Student Portal at Michigan.gov/MiSSG. In addition to the CVTG application, the following documents must also be submitted:

- Applicant's (child's) birth certificate (must list parents' names, which must include the veteran as a parent).
- Veteran's discharge certificate or separation document (DD Form 214).
- Veteran's death certificate or casualty report (if applicable).
- Proof of total and permanent disability or death due to service-incurred causes.
- Prior year transcript if the student has attended college previously.

Student Requirements/Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for an award, a student must:

- Complete an initial application (one time only).
    - The 2026-27 application was available January 1, 2026 and the deadline is June 30, 2027.
- Be the natural or adopted child of a qualifying Michigan veteran.
- Be older than 16 and less than 26 years of age.
- Not have been convicted of a felony involving an assault, physical injury, or death.
- File a current year Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
    - A submitted FAFSA is required and does not need to be completed or verified (**unless selected for identity verification**).
- Not be in default on a Federal student loan.
- Be a Michigan resident for 12 months prior to program application.
    - If the applicant is a dependent student, the first contributor's state and date of residency on the FAFSA is used to determine Michigan residency. The applicant's address from the FAFSA and the MiSSG student record is also used to evaluate residency.
- Be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or approved refugee.
- Be a high school graduate or its recognized equivalent.
    - Proof of high school completion is not required.
- Be an undergraduate student.
- Be enrolled at least half-time at a participating institution.
    - Courses outside of the degree program may count toward the enrollment requirement and covered costs.
- Have a minimum cumulative GPA of at least 2.25, which is monitored annually, at the beginning of an academic year to receive any CVTG awards in the same academic year.
- Meet the institution's Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy.

Renewal Requirements

In addition to the initial eligibility requirements, to renew, a student must:

- File a current year Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
    - A submitted FAFSA is required and does not need to be completed or verified (**unless selected for identity verification**).
- Maintain Michigan residency as outlined in the initial eligibility requirements.
- Be an undergraduate student.
- Enroll at least half-time at a participating institution.
    - Courses outside of the degree program may count toward the enrollment requirement and covered costs.
- Maintain a minimum cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 2.25 prior to the beginning of the academic year.
- Meet the institution's Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy.

Program Award Information

Award maximum is $2,800 per academic year. Award is tuition-specific and may also include mandatory fees. CVTG does not restrict what classes a student can enroll in. Courses outside of the degree program may count toward the enrollment requirement and covered costs.

Maximum annual awards are determined by the student's enrollment status:

- Full-time students can receive up to a maximum of $2,800 ($1,400 per semester/term).
- Three-quarter time students can receive up to a maximum of $2,100 ($1,050 per semester/term).
- Half-time students can receive up to a maximum of $1,400 ($700 per semester/term).

Semester/Term Awards

- Fall: Yes
- Winter: Yes
    - Term institutions only.
- Spring: Yes
- Summer: Yes

CVTG Reimbursement Requests

Reimbursement requests must be submitted for individual students using the online interface method in MiSSG. To do so, navigate to the Reimbursement Request menu under the Children of Veterans Tuition Grant menu, select a term, and click the Request Reimbursement button. Technical procedures are available in the Aid Administrators MiSSG Manual.

Program Limits

Program eligibility ends when a student has:

- Received CVTG funds in four academic years, which is counted as eight semesters (does not have to be consecutive); or
- Received the maximum total funding of $11,200; or
- Reached age 26.

Special Requirements

Institution Requirements

Participating Institutions

An eligible student must attend a:

- Michigan public degree-granting, community college, Tribal college, or public university; or
- Michigan private or independent degree-granting, non-profit institution.

Veteran Requirements

A qualifying parent veteran must have been:

- A legal resident of Michigan immediately before entering military service **and** did not later reside outside of Michigan for more than two years; **or** the veteran must have established (and maintains) legal residency in Michigan after entering military service.
- Killed in action or died from another cause while serving in a war or war condition in which the United States of America was or is participating; or,
- Died or become totally and permanently disabled as a result of a service-connected illness or injury as determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; or,
- Totally and permanently disabled as a result of a service-connected illness or injury prior to death and has now died; or,
- Listed as Missing in Action (MIA) in a foreign country as determined by the U.S. government.

Additional Program Details

Felony Reporting

Institutions that become aware of a CVTG student who is convicted of a felony involving an assault, physical injury, or death, must provide the Office of Higher Education with documentation as the student is no longer eligible for future payments.

Fostering Futures Scholarship

Contact

Program Coordinator: Stephanie Dillon, DillonS7@Michigan.gov

Description

Provides scholarships to students who have experienced foster care in Michigan on or after age 13. Students must also demonstrate financial need to qualify.

Application

NEW! Students must complete an initial application. Applications are available March 15 for the following academic year. The priority deadline to apply for 2026-27 is December 31, 2026. To complete an application or check the status, the student can log into the MiSSG Student Portal at Michigan.gov/MiSSG.

Eligible students only need to apply **once**. Approved applications now will remain valid as long as a student submits a FAFSA each year.

Student Requirements/Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for an award, a FFS student must:

- Complete an initial FFS application prior to the deadline.
    - The 2026-27 application is available March 15, 2026 and the priority deadline is December 31, 2026.
- Have been in Michigan foster care due to abuse/neglect on or after their 13th birthday.
- File a current year Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
    - A completed FAFSA is required and it must be verified if selected for verification.
- Not be in default on a Federal student loan.
- Demonstrate financial need.
- Be a Michigan resident since July 1 of the previous calendar year.
    - If the applicant is a dependent student, the first contributor's state and date of residency on the FAFSA is used to determine Michigan residency. The applicant's address from the FAFSA and the MiSSG student record is also used to evaluate residency.
- Be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or approved refugee.
- Be an undergraduate student.
- Be enrolled at least half-time at a participating institution.
    - Courses outside of the degree program may count toward the enrollment requirement and covered costs.
- Be a high school graduate or its recognized equivalent.
    - Proof of high school completion is not required.
- Meet the institution's Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy.

Renewal Requirements

In addition to the initial eligibility requirements, to renew, a student must:

- File a current year Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
    - A completed FAFSA is required and it must be verified if selected for verification.
- Maintain Michigan residency as outlined in the initial eligibility requirements.
- Enroll at least half-time at a participating institution.
    - Courses outside of the degree program may count toward the enrollment requirement and covered costs.
- Be an undergraduate student.
- Meet the institution's Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy.

Program Award Information

Award maximum is $5,000 per academic year. Award contains both non-tuition-specific and tuition-specific components. FFS does not restrict what classes a student can enroll in. Courses outside of the degree program may count toward the enrollment requirement and covered costs.

Maximum semester or term awards are not prorated by the student's enrollment.

- Up to $1,000 of the semester award may be used for tuition and fees, **and** books and supplies.
    - The books and supplies portion is based on the amount defined by the student's Cost of Attendance (COA) and can be applied toward direct or indirect costs.
- Up to $1,500 of the semester award may be used toward the student's Cost of Attendance. (COA).

Semester/Term Awards

- Fall: Yes
- Winter: Yes
    - Term institutions only.
- Spring: Yes
- ***NEW!*** Summer: Yes

FFS Certification

Certification must occur for individual students using the online interface method in MiSSG. To do so, navigate to the Certification menu item under the Fostering Futures Scholarship menu, select a term, and click the Certification Roster button. Technical procedures are available in the Aid Administrators MiSSG Manual.

Program Limits

Program eligibility ends when a student has:

- Received a bachelor's degree.

Special Requirements

Institution Requirements

Participating Institutions

An eligible student must attend a:

- Michigan public degree-granting, community college, Tribal college, or public university; or
- Michigan private or independent degree-granting, non-profit institution.

Futures for Frontliners Scholarship

Contact

- Program Coordinator: Don Florinchi, FlorinchiD@Michigan.gov
- Path 2: LEO-AdultEd@Michigan.gov

Description

Futures for Frontliners (F4F) provides last-dollar scholarship funding to community college for Michiganders without college degrees, who worked as frontline workers in essential industries between April 1 – June 30, 2020, to pursue a Pell-eligible associate degree or industry-recognized certificate. The scholarship program is intended to give thanks to those who put themselves at risk during our state COVID-19 shutdown to help keep our state running.

F4F offers two pathways to community college for:

- Community College ("Path 1") pathway for frontline workers who had their high school diploma or equivalent.
- High School Completion ("Path 2") pathway for frontline workers who needed to complete their high school diploma or equivalent prior to or while dually enrolled at an eligible institution.
    - Note: "Path 2" was administered by the Office of Adult Education in the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity Workforce Development (LEO-WD) and is no longer available.

Application

The F4F application deadline to apply for the scholarship was 11:59 p.m. on December 31, 2020.

Student Requirements/Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for the award, the applicant must:

- Have completed a F4F application prior to 11:59 p.m. on December 31, 2020.
- Have been employed in an essential industry at least 11 of the 13 weeks between April 1 to June 30, 2020, where they worked an average of at least 20 hours per week.
- Have been required by their job to work outside of their home at least some of the time between April 1 to June 30, 2020.
- File a current year Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
    - A completed FAFSA is required and it must be verified if selected for verification.
- Not be in default on a Federal student loan.
- Be a Michigan resident since July 1 of the previous calendar year.
    - If the applicant is a dependent student, the first contributor's state and date of residency on the FAFSA is used to determine Michigan residency. The applicant's address from the FAFSA and the MiSSG student record is also used to evaluate residency.
- Be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or approved refugee.
- Possess a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent.
    - Proof of high school completion is not required.
- Not have an associate or bachelor's degree.
    - Applicants who earned a certificate previously or are currently enrolled in an associate degree program, but have not yet earned an associate or bachelor's degree, are eligible for the program.
- Have enrolled in a Pell-eligible program at least half-time (6 credits) in courses toward their program of study and began classes under the scholarship program in the Winter, Spring, Summer or Fall semester of 2021.

Renewal Requirements

In addition to the initial eligibility requirements, to renew, a student must:

- File a current year Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

    - A completed FAFSA is required and it must be verified if selected for verification.
- Maintain Michigan residency as outlined in the initial eligibility requirements.
- Not have an associate or bachelor's degree.
- Maintain continuous enrollment.
    - Earn at least 12 credits in their program of study each academic year, unless a scholarship leave of absence has been approved.
    - If the student doe not earn at least 12 credits by the end of the academic year, the institution must report this in MiSSG as not meeting minimum credit hours earned.
- At the end of the academic year, be maintaining Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) or a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 2.0 at the institution since becoming a F4F participant.
    - If the institution is calculating the student's cumulative minimum 2.0 GPA, grades earned prior to the student's participation in F4F are not to be considered in the calculation.
    - ***CLARIFIED!*** At the end of the academic year, after confirming the student earned 12 credit hours, if the student does not meet SAP and also does not meet the required minimum GPA, the student must be reported in MiSSG as 'SAP and GPA Not Met' and the student will no longer be eligible to continue with the scholarship program.
    - For transfer students: F4F does not require a student's GPA transfer to their new institution.

Note: If a F4F participant does not meet one or more of the eligibility criteria to continue maintaining the scholarship, the eligible institution will not submit a reimbursement request or 'Eligible No Reimbursement' report on behalf of the student. The student will permanently lose the ability to participate in the F4F program and their participation cannot be reinstated unless a leave of absence applies and is approved.

Program Award Information

The F4F Scholarship program is a last-dollar scholarship, which is equal to the difference between in-district tuition and fees (i.e., tuition, contact hours and mandatory fees) and any Pell Grant and any State tuition-restricted scholarships or tuition-specific awards that a student receives (excluding TIP). F4F will only cover courses toward the student's certificate or degree program. Out-of-district costs are not covered by F4F. If a student chooses (or is required) to go to an out-of-district community college, the F4F participant is responsible for covering the cost difference between the in-district tuition rate and out-of-district rate.

F4F will only pay for developmental education courses offered through a corequisite model. Any additional remediation programs the institution considers appropriate are subject to all the following:

- Serve as a supplement to, not as an alternative, to the corequisite model.
- Evidence-based rationale for the program, to be reported in the annual compliance report.
- Offered at no charge to F4F students or offered outside of the tuition and fee structure. Institutions may use foundation or other local funding sources or refer students to adult education providers.

Semester/Term Awards

- Fall: Yes
- Winter: Yes
    - Term institutions only.
- Spring: Yes
- Summer: Yes

F4F Reimbursement Requests

Reimbursement requests may be submitted in MiSSG with an uploaded text file that the institution can create from using the Download Roster File as a base or by other methods such as exporting a text file from the institution's own internal system. The uploaded file must meet the specifications listed in the F4F Upload Reimbursement File Format which is available at Michigan.gov/MiSSG in the 'MiSSG File Formats for College Administrators' section.

Alternatively, reimbursement requests may be submitted for individual students by using the online

interface method in MiSSG. To do so, navigate to the F4F Reimbursement Request menu item under the Futures for Frontliners menu, select a term, and click the Reimbursement Roster button.

The most recent institution that submits a reimbursement for a student, prior to payment processing, is where funds will be disbursed to. Technical procedures are available in the Futures for Frontliners MiSSG Manual.

Program Limits

Program eligibility ends when a student has:

- Four years have passed from the first reimbursement or Eligible No Reimbursement report that the Office of Higher Education receives.
- The student has earned an associate degree.

Special Requirements

Institution Requirements

An eligible student must attend a:

- Michigan public degree-granting, community college, or Tribal college.

Eligible Programs of Study

F4F will only cover the cost of one (1) program at any given time.

F4F participants who choose to pursue an industry-recognized certificate can still go on to pursue their associate degree if the certificate is in an industry-recognized field that is related (i.e., logical transition) to the associate degree to be pursued.

F4F will cover the cost for the certificate and associate degree within the four-year limit. If the course of study is not completed within the four-year F4F limit, the student will be responsible for covering the remaining cost of their academic program.

F4F will only cover the cost of one (1) certificate within the four-year limit.

U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) apprenticeship programs are not eligible. If an apprenticeship program informs apprentices that completion of a Pell-eligible associate degree or industry-recognized certificate at the community college counts toward the academic requirement of the apprenticeship program, the apprentice could attend the community college tuition-free. However, that is an arrangement between the union and the apprentice. Non-Pell-eligible courses or courses outside of the community college are not available for the F4F scholarship.

Leave of Absence

A participant, who takes a leave of absence from an eligible institution and is unable to maintain enrollment in their program of study and earn a minimum of 12 credits by the end of the academic year due to an approved hardship, may continue to receive their award upon resuming their education at an eligible institution provided there is program funding and the student continues to meet all applicable eligibility requirements for the scholarship program. The time in which the student was not continuously enrolled does not count toward the scholarship program's four-year time limit.

The leave of absence process, review, and approval is to be managed by, and is at the discretion of, the eligible institution. The Office of Higher Education does also consider the following reasons to be considered allowable issues of hardship:

- Fulfilment of a religious commitment expected of all students of that faith, or
- Participants who become waitlisted for their program or provided a late start date after pre-requisite courses are completed for their curriculum.

If a student's leave of absence is approved by the eligible institution, community college staff with access to MiSSG will enter in a leave of absence for all semesters the student missed during the leave of

absence within the student's record in MiSSG.

Special Reporting

By accepting F4F scholarship funds, institutions agree to participate in data collection and quality assurance protocols established by the Office of Higher Education for the purpose of accurately tracking student outcomes, i.e., reporting associate degree and certificates earned in MiSSG. F4F participants who are 'Eligible No Reimbursement' should still be included in the institutions' reporting.

Institutions must report graduation data in MiSSG for F4F recipients each semester.

MI Future Educator Fellowship

Contact

Program Coordinator: Sarah McGann, McGannS@Michigan.gov

Description

Provides up to $10,000 annually toward the cost of tuition and required fees to create low-cost tuition pathways for future educators who are admitted and enrolled in an Educator Preparation Program (EPP) approved by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE).

Application

Students must complete an annual application and the current year FAFSA to be considered. Applications are available May 1, 2026. The deadline to apply for 2026-27 is June 15, 2027. To complete the annual application or check the status, the student can log into the MiSSG Student Portal at Michigan.gov/MiSSG.

To ensure adequate processing time, deadlines for the student application, the institution's confirmation of eligibility, and the student's signature are defined below.

- Application Deadline: **June 15, 2027**
- Confirmation of Eligibility Deadline: **July 1, 2027**
    - Institutions may begin reviewing Confirmation of Eligibility: **September 1, 2026**
- Deadline for the student to sign the CTMA: **July 15, 2027**

Students who are not confirmed as eligible by the institution by July 1, 2027 will automatically move to 'ineligible.'

Students who do not sign the Commitment to Teach in Michigan Agreements (CTMA) by July 15, 2027 will automatically be moved to 'ineligible' and their CTMA will be removed from OneSpan, preventing the student from signing after the deadline.

CLARIFIED! Each student who is issued a Commitment to Teach in Michigan Agreement will receive two reminders to sign the CTMA: a first reminder is sent one-week post-request, and a second reminder is sent two weeks post-request. Students should watch carefully for the original email and check their spam and junk folders if the CMTA cannot be located. The Program Coordinator can resend this document to the student upon request.

Institutions should use the 'Fellowship Status Report' to help track students who have been confirmed, but have not signed the CTMA.

Student Requirements/Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for an initial award, a student must:

- Complete the annual MI Future Educator Fellowship application.
    - The 2026-27 application is available May 1, 2026 and the deadline is June 15, 2027.
- File a current year Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
    - A submitted FAFSA is required and does not need to be completed or verified (**unless selected for identity verification**).
    - The Fellowship does not require applicants be U.S. Citizens or eligible non-citizens to qualify; however, applicants must have a SSN, as the FAFSA is required.
- Be admitted into an eligible Educator Preparation Program approved by Michigan's State Board of Education.
    - ***CLARIFIED!*** Educator Preparation Programs must include training in pedagogical methods grounded in the science of reading for students ***by September 30, 2027,*** to qualify for MI Fellowship.
- Be working on their initial teacher certification.

- Be enrolled in enough coursework to be considered enrolled full-time during the academic year or its equivalency for individuals enrolled in an alternative certification program.
    - Courses outside of the degree program may count toward the enrollment requirement and covered costs.
- Have reached Junior grade level according to the institution's definition.
- Have a minimum cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 3.0.
    - A student must have a minimum cumulative 3.0 GPA prior to the first semester of awarding in the academic year. The GPA is to be monitored once per award year. If the student is a transfer student or attempting an advanced degree, and has no institutional GPA, the institution should consider the student's most recent postsecondary GPA or may consider an average of all previous postsecondary GPAs, whichever is more favorable to the student.
- Be a Michigan resident since July 1 of the previous calendar year.
    - If the applicant is a dependent student, the first contributor's state and date of residency on the FAFSA is used to determine Michigan residency. The applicant's address from the FAFSA and the MiSSG student record is also used to evaluate residency.
- ***NEW!*** Complete a Commitment to Teach in Michigan Agreement by July 15, 2027, which requires that the recipient teach in Michigan in a public or nonpublic school or qualifying public or nonpublic preschool program for a specific number of years, depending on the number of years they have received the MI Future Educator Fellowship.
- ***NEW!*** Students **may not** receive Grow Your Own, Educator Workforce Innovation Program, or Educator Development and Retention Program funding (described in Sec. 27b of the P.A. 25 of 2026) and MI Future Educator Fellowship at the same time.

Renewal Requirements/Eligibility

In addition to the initial eligibility requirements, to renew, a student must:

- Complete the annual MI Future Educator Fellowship application.
- File a current year Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
    - A submitted FAFSA is required and does not need to be completed or verified (**unless selected for identity verification**).
- Meet the institution's Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy.
- Have a minimum cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 3.0.
    - A student must have a minimum cumulative 3.0 GPA prior to the initial award period of the academic year. The GPA is to be monitored once per award year.
    - If the student is a transfer student or attempting an advanced degree, and has no institutional GPA, the institution should consider the student's most recent postsecondary GPA or may consider an average of all previous postsecondary GPAs, whichever is more favorable to the student.
- Complete a new Commitment to Teach in Michigan Agreement by July 15, 2027.
- Have maintained full-time continuous enrollment in an eligible EPP, as determined by the EPP, or the equivalent of full-time participation for individuals enrolled in an alternative certification program, excluding any period of time missed due to a medical or other emergency. The timeframe since the student received their initial MI Fellowship award should be used in determining full-time continuous enrollment.
    - Courses outside of the degree program may count toward the enrollment requirement and covered costs.
    - ***CLARIFIED! Exception for 2022-23 Fellowship recipients***: For students whose initial MI Fellowship was awarded in Fall 2022, the student must have completed 24 credits in 2022-23 and maintained full-time continuous enrollment beginning 2023-24 and thereafter. If the student's initial MI Fellowship was awarded in Winter/Spring 2023 or Summer 2023, the student will not need to be evaluated for continuous full-time enrollment until the end of their first full academic year.
    - MI Fellowship recipients who have experienced a medical or other emergency in the prior academic year, which prevented them from meeting the continuous full-time

enrollment requirement, will need to be marked as "No-Not Eligible" on the Confirmation of Eligibility list in MiSSG.

- Have participated in relevant academic and career advising programs offered by the institution.

Program Award Information

Award maximum is up to $10,000 per academic year for tuition and required fees. MI Fellowship does not restrict what classes a student can enroll in. Courses outside of the degree program may count toward the enrollment requirement and covered costs.

Students may receive both a MI Future Educator Fellowship and a MI Future Educator Stipend award simultaneously.

There is no restriction on semester award amounts. Institutions are permitted to request up to the $10,000 annual maximum in one semester if needed, so long as the requested amount does not exceed that semester's tuition and required fees amount.

Semester/Term Awards

- Fall: Yes
- Winter: Yes
    - Term institutions only.
- Spring: Yes
- Summer: Yes
    - Summer awards are available only if the student has not exceeded the $10,000 maximum annual award and if the student is enrolled full-time.

MI Fellowship Reimbursement Requests

Reimbursement requests may be submitted in MiSSG with an uploaded text file that the institution can create from using the Download Roster File as a base or by other methods such as exporting a text file from the institution's own internal system. The uploaded file must meet the specifications listed in the MI Fellowship Upload Reimbursement File Format which is available at Michigan.gov/MiSSG in the 'MiSSG File Formats for College Administrators' section.

Alternatively, reimbursement requests may be submitted for individual students by using the online interface method in MiSSG. To do so, navigate to the MI Fellowship Reimbursement Request menu item under the MI Fellowship menu, select a term, and click the Reimbursement Roster button.

The most recent institution that submits a reimbursement for a student, prior to payment processing, is where funds will be disbursed to. Technical procedures are available in the MI Future Educator MiSSG Manual.

Program Limits

Program eligibility ends when a student has:

- Been awarded a maximum of three MI Future Educator Fellowship awards up to a maximum of $30,000.
    - Note: If a student's award amount is less than the $10,000 maximum, they will still be considered to have received one year of MI Future Educator Fellowship and this will count toward the three-year maximum.
- Completed their Educator Preparation Program.
    - Program Completion occurs when a student has met all the requirements of a State-approved teacher preparation program. Program completers include all those who are documented as having met such requirements. Documentation may take the form of a degree, institutional certificate, program credential, transcript, or other written proof of having met the program's requirements. In applying this definition, the fact that an

individual has or has not been recommended to the State for an initial teaching credential may not be used as a criterion for determining who is a program completer.

Special Requirements

Institution Requirements

Participating Institutions

An eligible student must be enrolled in and attending a program approved by the Michigan Department of Education on the Educator Preparation Provider list. This includes programs at public and private colleges and universities.

EPP is the formal name for an educational program which leads to teacher certification. The Michigan Department of Education authorizes EPPs. EPP is more commonly known as the Teacher Education program. Students must be accepted into their EPP before applying for the MI Future Educator Fellowship.

CLARIFIED! Educator Preparation Programs must include training in pedagogical methods grounded in the science of reading for students ***by September 30, 2027***, to qualify for MI Fellowship.

Commitment to Teach in Michigan

NEW! Each MI Fellowship award results in a Commitment to Teach in Michigan, which requires that the recipient teach in Michigan in a public or non-public school or qualifying public or non-public preschool program for a specific number of years, depending on the number of years they have received the MI Future Educator Fellowship. Recipients must sign an acknowledgment that teaching in Michigan is required. If they do not fulfill their Commitment to Teach in Michigan, the Fellowship converts to a zero percent interest rate loan which must be repaid within ten years of the loan conversion, plus any periods of deferment as approved by the Michigan Department of Treasury's Student Loan Repayment Division (SLRD).

Qualifying public preschool program means a program requiring licensure from the Great Start Readiness Program, Head Start, Early Head Start, Early On, Early Childhood Special Education, Strong Beginnings, or preschool programs funded by the B-5 Preschool Development Grant. The teacher does not have to be working in a specific publicly funded classroom in order to meet the teaching requirement.

NEW! Qualifying non-public preschool program means a licensed non-public preschool classroom that provides preschool education and is not included in the definition of a qualifying public preschool program. The classroom must operate under a valid State of Michigan child care license.

Number Academic Years Fellowship Received	Recipient Agrees to Teach in Michigan for
One	Three Years
Two	Four Years
Three	Five Years

The length of time a recipient must agree to teach in Michigan is not related to the dollar amount a recipient received. If a student receives an award of less than $10,000 in academic year one, they are still agreeing to teach in Michigan for three years. If a student receives less than $10,000 in academic year two, they are still agreeing to teach in Michigan for four years.

NEW! If a student has signed multiple CTMAs, and each CTMA has different definitions for qualifying placements, the CTMA which includes the more expansive definition for qualifying placements may apply toward the student's entire teaching service commitment. For example, if a student signed a 2025-26 CTMA (public teaching placements only) and a 2026-27 CTMA (public and nonpublic teaching placements allowed), the 2026-27 CTMA's definition of qualifying placements will apply to the student's entire four-year teaching commitment.

Additional Program Details

Institutions that receive MI Future Educator Fellowship funds are required to maintain and report their compliance with the tuition restraint requirements (pursuant to Public Act 25 of 2026).

Leave of Absence

CLARIFIED! MI Fellowship recipients who have experienced a medical or other emergency in the prior academic year, which prevented them from meeting the continuous full-time enrollment requirement, may pursue the Fellowship Leave of Absence policy upon return to their status of full-time enrollment in an eligible Educator Preparation Program. Financial aid professionals should direct students in these situations to reach out to the Office of Higher Education to request reconsideration of their eligibility and provide documentation to the Office of Higher Education as requested. Eligibility will be determined on a case-by-case basis and changes in eligibility will be communicated via email to the institution.

MI Future Educator Stipend

Contact

Program Coordinator: Sarah McGann, McGannS@Michigan.gov

Description

Provides a $9,600 stipend per semester to support Michigan's student teachers who are participating in their required student teaching semester(s).

Application

Students must complete an annual application. The deadline to apply for 2026-27 is July 15, 2027. To complete the annual application or check the status, the student can log into the MiSSG Student Portal at Michigan.gov/MiSSG. Students do not need to complete a FAFSA to qualify.

- Fall student teachers can begin applying when they have accepted their student teacher placement and after May 1 of each award year.
- Spring student teachers can begin applying when they have accepted their student teacher placement and after November 1 of each award year.
- Summer student teachers can begin applying when they have accepted their student teacher placement and after April 1 of each award year.

Student Requirements/Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for a Stipend award, a student must:

- Have completed the MI Future Educator Stipend application.
  - The 2026-27 application is available May 1, 2026 and the deadline is July 15, 2027.
- Be admitted into an eligible Educator Preparation Program (EPP).
  - ***CLARIFIED!*** Educator Preparation Programs must include training in pedagogical methods grounded in the science of reading for students ***by September 30, 2027***, to qualify for MI Stipend.
- ***CLARIFIED!*** Be working toward an initial or subsequent teacher certification.
- Student teachers must meet both of the following criteria to qualify for a MI Future Educator Stipend award:
  - Be enrolled full-time in student teaching coursework, **and**
  - Complete a minimum of 300 student contact hours.
    - ***NEW!*** Students must be participating **full-time** in a required student teaching experience (also called the internship), in a Michigan public school, public-school academy, or nonpublic school. This student teaching experience must be **the supervised, clinical capstone experience that requires a minimum of 300 student contact hours**.
- Students are limited to a maximum of two MI Future Educator Stipends in their lifetime.
- Not be employed by the district as a teacher of record.
  - Per the 2025-26 Michigan Department of Education Pupil Accounting Manual, a teacher of record is defined as "the certificated teacher who is responsible for providing instruction, determining instructional methods for each pupil, diagnosing learning needs, assessing pupil learning, prescribing intervention strategies, and modifying lessons, reporting outcomes, and evaluating the effects of instruction and support strategies.
- No FAFSA is required for this program.
- Be a high school graduate or its recognized equivalent.
  - Proof of high school completion is not required.
- ***NEW!*** Students **may not** receive Grow Your Own, Educator Workforce Innovation Program, or Educator Development and Retention Program funding (described in Sec. 27b of the P.A. 25 of 2026) and MI Future Educator Stipend at the same time.

MI Future Educator Stipend Residency

Students do not need to be a Michigan resident; however, they must be admitted into an eligible Educator Preparation Program (EPP) and completing their required student teaching experience in Michigan.

MI Future Educator Stipend Citizenship

Students do not need to be a U.S. Citizen; however, they must be admitted into an eligible Educator Preparation Program (EPP) and completing their required student teaching experience in Michigan.

If a student is experiencing difficulty creating a MiSSG account because they do not have a Social Security number, please have them contact 888-447-2687 for assistance.

Program Award Information

Award maximum is up to $9,600 per semester. The stipend is to be paid directly to the student from the institution and cannot affect the student's financial aid package. This guidance was confirmed through communication with Federal Student Aid.

"Based on your interpretation of the Michigan statute, we agree that the MI Future Educator Stipend funds may be considered wages from non-need-based employment (and therefore not counted as estimated financial assistance), subject to the conditions described in your email. That is, postsecondary institutions receiving stipend funds for payment to eligible student teachers must issue the appropriate tax forms to stipend recipients, and recipients must be informed that they are required to report the income provided through the program on their tax return, and, if applicable, on future FAFSAs, and that this may affect their future eligibility for need-based aid."

-Office of Policy and Implementation and Oversight, Federal Student Aid, U.S. Department of Education

Students may receive a MI Future Educator Stipend and the MI Future Educator Fellowship simultaneously.

Semester/Term Awards

- Fall: Yes
- Winter: Yes
    - Term institutions only.
- Spring: Yes
- Summer: Yes

MI Stipend Certification

Awards can be certified with an uploaded text file in MiSSG that the institution can create by using the MI Stipend Download Roster File as a base or by other methods such as exporting a text file from the institution's own internal system. The uploaded file must meet the specifications listed in the MI Stipend Upload Certification Roster File Format which is available at Michigan.gov/MiSSG in the 'MiSSG File Formats for College Administrators' section.

Alternatively, certification may occur for students individually by using the online interface method in MiSSG. To do so, navigate to the Certification menu item under the MI Future Educator Stipend menu, select a term, and click the Certification Roster button.

Program Limits

Program eligibility ends when a student has:

- Received MI Future Educator Stipend funds, unless their EPP specifically requires they complete more than one semester/term of student teaching in order to become a certified teacher.
    - Because most teacher preparation programs require one semester of full-time student teaching, most students are eligible for one award. In cases where students receive multiple endorsements (for example, students pursuing special education certification),

an additional semester of student teaching may be required by a teacher preparation program.

- Completed their Educator Preparation Program.
- Students are limited to a maximum of two MI Future Educator Stipends in their lifetime and must be for qualifying semester(s) of student teaching required for program completion.

Special Requirements

Institution Requirements

Participating Institutions

An eligible student must be admitted in an eligible Educator Preparation Program approved by Michigan's State Board of Education.

EPP is the formal name for an educational program which leads to teacher certification. The Michigan Department of Education authorizes EPPs. EPP is more commonly known as the Teacher Education Program. Students must be accepted into their EPP before applying for the MI Future Educator Stipend.

CLARIFIED! Educator Preparation Programs must include training in pedagogical methods grounded in the science of reading for students ***by September 30, 2027***, to qualify for MI Stipend.

Institutions will need to issue an IRS 1099 Form for the appropriate tax year to all MI Future Educator Stipend recipients. Students may wish to consult with a tax advisor regarding their potential tax consequences of receiving the award.

Additional Program Details

Institutions that receive MI Future Educator Stipend funds are required to maintain and report their compliance with the tuition restraint requirements (pursuant to Public Act 25 of 2026).

MI GEAR UP Scholarship

Contact

MI GEAR UP Scholarship Program Coordinator: Stephanie Dillon, DillonS7@Michigan.gov

MI GEAR UP Educational Award (MET): 800-638-4543.

Description

Provides scholarships to qualified students who participated in programs developed by coordinators from Michigan's public universities. MI GEAR UP is designed to provide early intervention services and programs to students in middle school and high school. MI GEAR UP Scholarship targets low-income students by providing them with support services to increase their opportunity to succeed in postsecondary education.

MI GEAR UP has two award components:

1. MI GEAR UP Scholarship (administered by the Office of Higher Education) and
2. MI GEAR UP Educational Award (administered by Michigan Department of Treasurys' Michigan Education Trust (MET)).

Application

Only nominated MI GEAR UP participants will be considered for a scholarship. There is no specific application. However, nominated students must file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). To check the scholarship status, the student can log into the MiSSG Student Portal at Michigan.gov/MiSSG.

Student Requirements/Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for an award, a MI GEAR UP student must:

- File a current year Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
  - A submitted FAFSA is required and does not need to be completed or verified (**unless selected for identity verification**).
- Have successfully completed the MI GEAR UP program and been nominated to receive an award.
- Not be in default on a Federal student loan.
- Be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or approved refugee.
- Be a Michigan resident since July 1 of the previous calendar year.
  - If the applicant is a dependent student, the first contributor's state and date of residency on the FAFSA is used to determine Michigan residency. The applicant's address from the FAFSA and the MiSSG student record is also used to evaluate residency.
- Be an undergraduate student.
- Enroll at least half-time at a participating institution.
  - Courses outside of the degree program may count toward the enrollment requirement and covered costs.
- Initiate enrollment at a participating institution prior to age 22.
- Possess a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent.
  - Proof of high school completion is required.
- Meet the institution's Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy.

Renewal Requirements

In addition to the initial eligibility requirements, to renew, a student must:

- File a current year Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
  - A submitted FAFSA is required and does not need to be completed or verified (**unless selected for identity verification**).

- Maintain Michigan residency as outlined in the initial eligibility requirements.
- Be an undergraduate student.
- Enroll at least half-time at a participating institution.
    - Courses outside of the degree program may count toward the enrollment requirement and covered costs.
- Meet the institution's Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy.

Program Award Information

- A student can receive up to $2,000 per academic year at participating institutions.
- ***NEW!*** A student from the high school Class of 2026 can receive up to $5,000 per academic year at participating institutions.

MI GEAR UP is not tuition-specific and may not exceed the student's Cost of Attendance. Other gift aid may reduce or cancel this award. MI GEAR UP does not restrict what classes a student can enroll in. Courses outside of the degree program may count toward the enrollment requirement and covered costs.

Semester/Term Awards

- Fall: Yes
- Winter: Yes
    - Term institutions only.
- Spring: Yes
- Summer: Yes

Certification

Certification must occur for individual students using the online interface method in MiSSG. To do so, navigate to the Certification menu item under the MI GEAR UP Scholarship menu, select a term, and click the Certification Roster button. Technical procedures are available in the Aid Administrators MiSSG Manual.

Program Limits

Program eligibility ends when a student has:

- Received MI GEAR UP funds in four academic years; or
- ***NEW!*** Received the maximum total funding of $4,000 (or $10,000 for Class of 2026); or
- Four years has passed since the student's high school graduation date.

Limited to approved and available funding.

Special Requirements

Institution Requirements

Participating Institutions

An eligible student must attend a:

- Michigan public degree-granting, community college, Tribal college, or public university; or
- Michigan private or independent degree-granting, non-profit institution.

Michigan Achievement Scholarship

Contact

Michigan Achievement Scholarship Program Coordinator: Sarah Laycock, LaycockS@Michigan.gov
Community College Guarantee Co-coordinator: Caroline Nurenberg, NurenbergC4@Michigan.gov

Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship Program Coordinator: Don Florinchi, FlorinchiD@Michigan.gov

Description

NEW! Provides scholarships for undergraduate students who graduated from high school with a diploma, certificate of completion, or achieved a high school equivalency certificate in 2023 or after. Students must be attending an eligible Michigan postsecondary institution.

This program is split into three pathways:

- Michigan Achievement Scholarship Community College Guarantee
- Michigan Achievement Scholarship at Michigan Four-year Public or Private Colleges and Universities.
- Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship

For Frequently Asked Questions, please reference our Community College Guarantee FAQs Michigan Achievement Scholarship for Four-year FAQs, Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship FAQs

on our Web site.

Michigan Achievement Scholarship Community College Guarantee

Application

Students must complete the current year Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to be considered.

NEW! The final day for students to become eligible for Michigan Achievement Scholarship in Academic Year 2026-27 is Friday, August 6, 2027.

Student Requirements/Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for the Community College Guarantee, a student must:

- File a current year Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
    - A completed FAFSA is required and it must be verified if selected for verification.
- Be a Michigan resident since July 1 of the previous calendar year.
    - If the applicant is a dependent student, the first contributor's state and date of residency on the FAFSA is used to determine Michigan residency. The applicant's address from the FAFSA and the MiSSG student record is also used to evaluate residency.
- ***NEW!*** Graduate from a high school with a diploma or a certificate of completion or achieved a high school equivalency certificate in 2023 or after.
    - Proof of high school completion is required.
    - Criteria for graduation from a Michigan high school has been removed effective 2026-27.
- Enroll full-time as defined by the eligible institution.
    - Courses outside of the student's degree program may count toward both the enrollment requirement and may be paid by the Community College Guarantee Last-dollar Award.
    - Eligible institutions include Michigan community colleges and Tribal colleges.
- Enroll at an eligible institution within 15-months of high school graduation or earning a high school equivalency to initiate the award.
- Not be in default on a Federal student loan.
- Be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or approved refugee.
- Meet the institution's Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy.
- Be an undergraduate student.

Renewal Requirements

In addition to the initial eligibility requirements, to renew, a student must:

- File a current year Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
    - A completed FAFSA is required and it must be verified if selected for verification.
- Maintain Michigan residency as outlined in the initial eligibility requirements.
- Be an undergraduate student.
- Enroll full-time at a participating institution.
    - Courses outside of the degree program may count toward the enrollment requirement and covered costs.
- Meet the institution's Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy.

Program Award Information

Qualifying students may be eligible for:

- Up to the cost of in-district tuition, contact hours, and mandatory fees if they attend a Michigan community college or Tribal college, each year for up to three years.
- For out-of-district students, the Community College Guarantee Last-dollar amount may never exceed the student's actual in-district tuition, contact hours, and mandatory fees.
- $1,000 Michigan Achievement Bonus award for students eligible for a Federal Pell Grant.

Semester Maximums

Community College Guarantee Last-Dollar Award

- There is no maximum dollar amount for the Community College Guarantee Last-dollar Award.
    - Students may receive Community College Guarantee Last-dollar Award for every semester they meet eligibility requirements.

Michigan Achievement Bonus

- Community College/Tribal college
    - Fall $500
    - Spring $500
    - Summer ($500 limited to two semesters per academic year and a maximum of $1,000)

Semester/Term Awards

- Fall: Yes
- Winter: Yes
    - Term institutions only.
- Spring: Yes
- Summer: Yes

Community College Guarantee Certification

Michigan Achievement Scholarship is a certification program. Institutions are expected to certify **all** students regardless of their enrollment status.

Awards can be certified with an uploaded text file in MiSSG that the institution can create by using the Michigan Achievement Scholarship Community College Guarantee Download Roster File as a base or by other methods such as exporting a text file from the institution's own internal system. The uploaded file must meet the specifications listed in the Michigan Achievement Scholarship Community College Guarantee Upload Certification Roster File Format which is available at Michigan.gov/MiSSG in the 'MiSSG File Formats for College Administrators' section.

Alternatively, certification may occur for students individually by using the online interface method in MiSSG. To do so, navigate to the Certification menu item under the Michigan Achievement Scholarship menu, select a term, and click the Certification Roster button. Technical procedures are available in the Michigan Achievement Scholarship Community College Guarantee MiSSG Manual.

Program Limits

Program eligibility ends when a student has:

- Received the Michigan Achievement Scholarship for up to five consecutive years total, with no more than three years at a Michigan community college and Tribal college.
    - *Students enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program at a Michigan community college may be eligible to receive the Michigan Achievement Scholarship for up to five consecutive years.*
- Received a bachelor's degree.
    - Students are not limited to the number of certificates or associate degrees received as long as they have years of eligibility remaining at a Michigan community college or Tribal college.

NEW! Note: Students may not participate simultaneously in the Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship and Michigan Achievement Scholarship in the same term.

Special Requirements

Institution Requirements

Participating Institutions

An eligible student must attend a:

- Michigan public degree-granting, community college, or Tribal college.

Students enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program at a Michigan community college are eligible to receive the Michigan Achievement Four-Year award rate. Eligible institutions will be notified of the procedures required for the certification of this cohort.

Verification

In the event that a student is selected for verification after they are certified for Michigan Achievement Scholarship, the student may retain the amount of Michigan Achievement Scholarship awarded. Subsequent awards and adjustments may only be made after the completion of the verification.

Example: A student was certified for fall semester and was selected for verification in November, after payment was made. Prior to any fall adjustments or subsequent semester awards, the student must be brought back into eligible status by completing the verification.

15-Month Initiation Requirement

Students must initiate their Michigan Achievement Scholarship within 15-months of high school graduation or earning a high school equivalency certificate. Initiation is defined as enrolling at any enrollment level at a participating Michigan institution within 15-months of high school graduation or earning a high school equivalency certificate.

Initiation in MiSSG begins when the ***first*** of one of the following conditions is met:

- A Michigan Achievement Scholarship or Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship payment of $0.01 or greater, or
- The certification of a Michigan Achievement Scholarship award as "NO - Full-Time - exceeds COA/T&F," or
- Certification of Michigan Achievement Scholarship award as "NO" with any enrollment level other than "Not Enrolled," or
- Manually entering a student's first term of enrollment using the override process in MiSSG.

Note: Dual enrollment or Early Middle College Enrollment semesters are not counted towards Michigan Achievement Scholarship initiation.

The 15-month periods are shown below in the table. MiSSG will track students 15-month eligibility.

Example: A student completed high school requirements in February of 2026, their final semester to initiate will be Summer of 2027.

Graduation Month	Final Semester/Term to Initiate
January	Summer
February	
March	
April	Fall
May	
June	
July	
August	
September	Winter/Spring
October	
November	
December	

Additional Program Details

CLARIFIED! Per section 248(10) of Public Act 25 of 2026, each eligible institution whose students receive the Michigan Achievement Scholarship funds is required to submit a report to the Office of Higher Education by April 1st of each year. The data required for this report will be collected through a Microsoft Office Form, which will be sent to institutions via GovDelivery one month before the April 1st deadline. Institutions are expected to provide the data in computing the average amount of institutional grant aid awarded to full-time first-time undergraduate students consistent with data most recently reported to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).

Institutions are also required to maintain and report their compliance with the tuition restraint requirements (pursuant to Public Act 25 of 2026).

4th Quarter Special Processing

NEW! If a student's final semester to initiate the Michigan Achievement Scholarship is in a 'Ready to Pay' status, that payment must be moved to 'Paid' before any subsequent semesters can be certified. This issue typically affects students who submit their FAFSA, complete verification, or transfer their MiSSG record late in the academic year.

If the 'Ready to Pay' status for the initiation semester is not updated to 'Paid' during Quarters 1–3, a special process may be required in Quarter 4. MiSSG does not allow certification for semesters beyond the initiation period unless the initial payment has been processed.
To request certification for subsequent semesters in these cases, please follow the steps below.

1. Complete the certification for the available semester(s) the system will allow within the 'Must Certify Prior Terms' rule.
2. Send an email to the program coordinator (LaycockS@Michigan.gov) requesting the additional certifications. The following must be included for an override to be performed:
    - Student Name and MiSSG ID (DOB and SSN are not accepted)
    - Semester(s) certification needs to occur
    - Amount of award to be certified (separated into Minimum/Last-Dollar or Bonus/Last-Dollar)
    - Number of Credit Hours and Contact Hours (if in excess of Credit Hours)
    - Any reduced award reason applicable
3. The program coordinator will process the student in MiSSG and notify the requestor via email.
4. The requestor then must verify the certification in MiSSG is correct and add a comment in the

student's MiSSG profile reflecting that, as well as responding to the notification email.

5. Any changes to the student's certification during the 4th quarter will need to be done through the program coordinator.

Definitions

"Community College Guarantee Last-dollar Award" must be applied toward in-district tuition, contact hours, and mandatory fees.

"Community College Guarantee Last-dollar payment amount" for a student attending a Community College or Tribal college means an amount equal to the in-district tuition, contact hours and the student's mandatory fees for each student's actual program of study, minus all gift aid received by the student.

*Actual program of study as it pertains to Community College Guarantee Last-dollar payment amount, refers to the actual cost of courses incurred by the student and does not limit the courses that can be paid for. Courses outside of the student's degree program may count toward both the enrollment requirement and may be paid by the Community College Guarantee Last-dollar Award.

"Michigan Achievement Bonus" Students receiving the Michigan Achievement Scholarship at the Community College or Tribal college who are eligible for Federal Pell Grants shall also receive an additional award of $1,000.

"Mandatory fees" must be fees specified in the institution's course catalog as a condition of enrollment and/or required for the student's completion of an eligible certificate or degree (such as online fees and lab fees required for course enrollment). Allowable fees covered by State financial aid programs must not include any fees that a student or students may opt-out of.

"Cost of Attendance" all awards must fit within the student's individual cost of attendance.

"Gift aid" includes:

- Federal Pell Grants under 20 USC 1070a,
- Tuition Incentive Program benefits under Public Act 25 of 2026, Section 256,
- State tuition grants under Public Act 25 of 2026, Section 252,
- Michigan Achievement Scholarship Minimum Awards,
- ***CLARIFIED!*** Higher education expenses paid under the Michigan Promise Zone Authority Act (restricted to tuition and mandatory fees), Public Act 549 of 2008, MCL 390.1661 to 390.1679, and,
- All other Federal, State, local/outside, or institutional aid in the form of grants, scholarships, discounts restricted to tuition and mandatory fees.

"Gift aid" does not include:

- Other non-tuition specific State aid,
- ***CLARIFIED!*** Other non-tuition specific Michigan Promise Zone aid,
- Other non-tuition specific institutional aid,
- Other non-tuition specific local/outside aid,
- Student loans,
- Work-study awards,
- Qualified withdrawals made from education savings accounts to pay higher education expenses pursuant to the Michigan Education Savings Program Act, 2000 Public Act 161 of 2000, MCL 390.1471 to 390.1486,
- Higher education expenses paid under the Michigan education trust program pursuant to the Michigan Education Trust Act, 1986 Public Act 316 of 1986, MCL 390.1421 to 390.1442, and,
- VA benefits.

Michigan Achievement Scholarship at
Michigan Four-Year Public or Private Colleges and Universities

Application

Students must complete the current year Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to be considered.

NEW! The final day for students to become eligible for Michigan Achievement Scholarship in Academic Year 2026-27 is Friday, August 6, 2027.

Student Requirements/Eligibility Criteria

- File the current year Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
    - A completed FAFSA is required and it must be verified if selected for verification.
- Demonstrate financial need when they complete the FAFSA for Academic Year 2025-26, by having a Student Aid Index (SAI) of 30,000 or less.
    - Students who **received** the Michigan Achievement Scholarship in Academic Year 2023-24, and have completed a 2026-27 FAFSA, shall be considered meeting the financial need component of the Michigan Achievement Scholarship for Academic Year 2026-27 regardless of their SAI. Received is defined as:
        - A student receiving payment of Michigan Achievement Scholarship, or
        - A student who met all eligibility criteria and was certified as exceeds Cost of Attendance (COA).
- Be a Michigan resident since July 1 of the previous calendar year.
    - If the applicant is a dependent student, the first contributor's state and date of residency on the FAFSA is used to determine Michigan residency. The applicant's address from the FAFSA and the MiSSG student record is also used to evaluate residency.
- ***NEW!*** Graduate from high school with a diploma or a certificate of completion or achieved a high school equivalency certificate in 2023 or after.
    - Proof of high school completion is required.
    - Criteria for graduating from a Michigan high school has been removed.
- Enroll full-time as defined by the eligible institution.
    - Courses outside of the student's degree program may count toward both the enrollment requirement and may be paid by the Michigan Achievement Scholarship.
    - Eligible institutions include public or private colleges or universities or students enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program at a Michigan community college.
- Enroll at an eligible institution within 15-months of high school graduation or earning a high school equivalency to initiate the award.
- Be an undergraduate student.
- Not be in default on a Federal student loan.
- Be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or approved refugee.
- Meet the institution's Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy.

Renewal Requirements

In addition to the initial eligibility requirements, to renew, a student must:

- File a current year Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
    - A completed FAFSA is required and it must be verified if selected for verification.
- Maintain Michigan residency as outlined in the initial eligibility requirements.
- Be an undergraduate student.
- Enroll full-time at a participating institution.
    - Courses outside of the degree program may count toward the enrollment requirement and covered costs.
- Meet the institution's Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy.

- Meet the SAI requirement by having a Student Aid Student Aid Index (SAI) of 30,000 or less.
    - Students who received the Michigan Achievement Scholarship in Academic Year 2023-24, and have completed a 2026-27 FAFSA, shall be considered meeting the financial need component of the Michigan Achievement Scholarship for Academic Year 2026-27 regardless of their SAI. Received is defined as:
        - A student receiving payment of Michigan Achievement Scholarship, or
        - A student who met all eligibility criteria and was certified as exceeds Cost of Attendance (COA).

Program Award Information

Qualifying students may be eligible for:

Up to $5,500 per year if they attend a Michigan public university, private college or university or are enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program at a Michigan community college.

- $2,500 Michigan Achievement Scholarship Minimum Award
- $3,000 Michigan Achievement Scholarship Last-dollar Award
- Both Minimum and Last-dollar Awards can be paid toward Cost of Attendance (COA).

Semester Maximums

Michigan Achievement Scholarship Minimum Award

Michigan public university, private college or university, or baccalaureate degree program at a Michigan community college

- Fall $1,250
- Spring $1,250
- Summer ($1,250 Limited to two semesters per academic year and a maximum of $2,500)

* For term schools, Fall $834, Winter $833, Spring $833, and Summer ($833 Limited to three terms per academic year and a maximum of $2,500).

Michigan Achievement Scholarship Last-dollar Award

Michigan public university, private college or university, or baccalaureate degree program at a Michigan community college

- Fall $1,500
- Spring $1,500
- Summer ($1,500 Limited to two semesters per academic year and a maximum of $3,000)

* For term schools, Fall $1,000, Winter $1,000, Spring $1,000, and Summer ($1,000 Limited to three terms per academic year and a maximum of $3,000).

Semester/Term Awards

- Fall: Yes
- Winter: Yes
    - Term institutions only.
- Spring: Yes
- Summer: Yes

Michigan Achievement Scholarship Certification

Michigan Achievement Scholarship is a certification program. Institutions are expected to certify **all** students regardless of their enrollment status.

Awards can be certified with an uploaded text file in MiSSG that the institution can create by using the Michigan Achievement Scholarship Download Roster File as a base or by other methods such as exporting a text file from the institution's own internal system. The uploaded file must meet the

specifications listed in the Michigan Achievement Scholarship Upload Certification Roster File Format or which is available at Michigan.gov/MiSSG in the 'MiSSG File Formats for College Administrators' section.

Alternatively, certification may occur for students individually by using the online interface method in MiSSG. To do so, navigate to the Certification menu item under the Michigan Achievement Scholarship menu, select a term, and click the Certification Roster button. Technical procedures are available in the Michigan Achievement Scholarship MiSSG Manual.

Program Limits

Program eligibility ends when a student has:

- Received the Michigan Achievement Scholarship for up to five consecutive years total, with no more than three years at a Michigan community college and Tribal college.
    - *Students enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program at a Michigan community college may be eligible to receive the Michigan Achievement Scholarship for up to five consecutive years.*
- Received a bachelor's degree.

NEW! Note: Students may not participate simultaneously in the Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship and Michigan Achievement Scholarship in the same term.

Special Requirements

Institution Requirements

Participating Institutions

An eligible student must attend a:

- Michigan public degree-granting public university; or
- Michigan private or independent degree-granting, non-profit institution.

Students enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program at a Michigan community college are eligible to receive the Michigan Achievement Four-Year award rate. Eligible institutions will be notified of the procedures required for the certification of this cohort.

Verification

In the event that a student is selected for verification after they are certified for Michigan Achievement Scholarship, the student may retain the amount of Michigan Achievement Scholarship awarded. Subsequent awards and adjustments may only be made after the completion of the verification.

Example: A student was certified for fall semester and was selected for verification in November, after payment was made. Prior to any fall adjustments or subsequent semester awards, the student must be brought back into eligible status by completing the verification.

15-Month Initiation Requirement

Students must initiate their Michigan Achievement Scholarship within 15-months of high school graduation or earning a high school equivalency certificate. Initiation is defined as enrolling at any enrollment level at a participating Michigan institution within 15-months of high school graduation or earning a high school equivalency certificate.

Initiation in MiSSG begins when the ***first*** of one of the following conditions is met:

- A Michigan Achievement Scholarship or Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship payment of $0.01 or greater, or
- The certification of a Michigan Achievement Scholarship award as "NO - Full-Time - exceeds COA/T&F," or
- Certification of Michigan Achievement Scholarship award as "NO" with any enrollment level other than "Not Enrolled," or

- Manually entering a student's first term of enrollment using the override process in MiSSG.

Note: Dual enrollment or Early Middle College Enrollment semesters are not counted towards Michigan Achievement Scholarship initiation.

The 15-month periods are shown below in the table. MiSSG will track students 15-month eligibility.

Example: A student completed high school requirements in February of 2026, their final semester to initiate will be Summer of 2027.

Graduation Month	Final Semester/Term to Initiate
January	Summer
February	
March	
April	Fall
May	
June	
July	
August	
September	Winter/Spring
October	
November	
December	

Additional Program Details

CLARIFIED! Per section 248(10) of Public Act 25 of 2026, each eligible institution whose students receive the Michigan Achievement Scholarship funds is required to submit a report the Office of Higher Education by April 1st of each year. The data required for this report will be collected through a Microsoft Office Form, which will be sent to institutions via GovDelivery one month before the April 1st deadline. Institutions are expected to provide the data in computing the average amount of institutional grant aid awarded to full-time first-time undergraduate students consistent with data most recently reported to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).

Institutions are also required to maintain and report their compliance with the tuition restraint requirements (pursuant to Public Act 25 of 2026).

4th Quarter Special Processing Instructions

NEW! If a student's final semester to initiate the Michigan Achievement Scholarship is in a 'Ready to Pay' status, that payment must be moved to 'Paid' before any subsequent semesters can be certified. This issue typically affects students who submit their FAFSA, complete verification, or transfer their MiSSG record late in the academic year.
If the 'Ready to Pay' status for the initiation semester is not updated to 'Paid' during Quarters 1–3, a special process may be required in Quarter 4. MiSSG does not allow certification for semesters beyond the initiation period unless the initial payment has been processed.

To request certification for subsequent semesters in these cases, please follow the steps below.

1. Complete the certification for the available semester(s) the system will allow within the 'Must Certify Prior Terms' rule.
2. Send an email to the program coordinator (LaycockS@Michigan.gov) requesting the additional certifications. The following must be included for an override to be performed:

- Student Name and MiSSG ID (DOB and SSN are not accepted)
- Semester(s) certification needs to occur
- Amount of award to be certified (Separated into Minimum/Last-Dollar or Bonus/Last-Dollar)
- Number of Credit Hours and Contact Hours (if in excess of Credit Hours)
- Any reduced award reason applicable

3. The program coordinator will process the student in MiSSG and notify the requestor via email.
4. The requestor then must verify the certification in MiSSG is correct and add a comment in the student's MiSSG profile reflecting that, as well as responding to the notification email.
5. Any changes to the student's certification during the 4th quarter will need to be done through the program coordinator.

Definitions

"Michigan Achievement Scholarship Minimum Award" all eligible participants will receive a minimum award up to their Cost of Attendance (COA).

"Michigan Achievement Scholarship Last-dollar Award" must be applied toward tuition, contact hours, mandatory fees, and other costs up to the student's cost of attendance.

"Last-dollar payment amount" for a student attending a public or private university or college, means an amount equal to the student's individual cost of attendance, minus all gift aid received by the student.

"Mandatory fees" must be fees specified in the institution's course catalog as a condition of enrollment and/or required for the student's completion of an eligible certificate or degree (such as online fees and lab fees required for course enrollment). Allowable fees covered by State financial aid programs must not include any fees that a student or students may opt-out of.

"Cost of Attendance" all awards must fit within the student's individual cost of attendance.

"Gift aid" includes:

- Federal Pell Grants under 20 USC 1070a,
- Tuition Incentive Program benefits under Public Act 25 of 2026, Section 256,
- State tuition grants under Public Act 25 of 2026, Section 252,
- Michigan Achievement Scholarship Minimum Awards,
- ***CLARIFIED!*** Higher education expenses paid under the Michigan Promise Zone Authority Act (restricted to tuition and mandatory fees), Public Act 549 of 2008, MCL 390.1661 to 390.1679, and,
- All other Federal, State, local/outside, or institutional aid in the form of grants, scholarships, discounts restricted to tuition and mandatory fees.

"Gift aid" does not include:

- Other non-tuition specific State aid,
- ***CLARIFIED!*** Other non-tuition specific Michigan Promise Zone aid,
- Other non-tuition specific institutional aid,
- Other non-tuition specific local/outside aid,
- Student loans,
- Work-study awards,
- Qualified withdrawals made from education savings accounts to pay higher education expenses pursuant to the Michigan Education Savings Program Act, 2000 Public Act 161 of 2000, MCL 390.1471 to 390.1486,
- Higher education expenses paid under the Michigan education trust program pursuant to the Michigan Education Trust Act, 1986 Public Act 316 of 1986, MCL 390.1421 to 390.1442, and,
- VA benefits.

Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship

Contact

For questions on program policy:

- Call: 269-491-4170 or 269-716-5075
- Email: MiLEAP-MASS@Michigan.gov

Program Coordinator: Don Florinchi, FlorinchiD@Michigan.gov

Description

CLARIFIED! Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship is available starting with the Class of 2023, high school graduates, and those who complete a high school equivalency. This program is for students interested in enrolling with an eligible Career Training Program and provides up to $2,000 per program. A student who does not complete their program may receive a second Skills Scholarship in a different academic year for up to $2,000.

Students who graduate from the Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship could still be eligible to attend a college or university and pursue an associate degree, bachelor's degree, or skill certificate with the Michigan Achievement Scholarship or Community College Guarantee.

Application

Students must complete an annual application. Applications are available March 1 for the following academic year. The deadline to apply is August 1, 2027. To complete the annual application or check the status, the student can log into the MiSSG Student Portal at Michigan.gov/MiSSG.

Once the application is submitted, the applicant will be notified immediately whether they are 'Eligible' for the scholarship program or if more information is needed to determine eligibility. Throughout the application, students may also receive a notice of ineligibility based on what answers are provided. Eligible students who complete the application will see a pop-up window congratulating them and indicating next steps to take to receive funding.

Students do not need to complete a FAFSA to qualify.

CLARIFIED! Note: If an eligible career training program also happens to qualify for Federal Pell Grant funding, Pell must be first dollar.

Student Requirements/Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for the award, the applicant must:

- Complete the Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship application.
    - The 2026-27 application is available March 1, 2026 and the deadline is August 1, 2027.
- ***NEW!*** Graduate from high school with a diploma, a certificate of completion, or achieved a high school equivalency certificate in 2023 or after.
    - Proof of high school completion is required.
        - **Students must provide proof of high school completion or equivalency to the career training provider. Career training providers must verify and keep verification of high school completion (or equivalent) for Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship students who enroll.**
        - ***NEW!*** **Career training providers must make high school diplomas available to Agency Users upon request. If a training provider is found to not collect this information, they will no longer be eligible to participate in the scholarship program and must return all funds provided to students without required documentation.**
        - ***NEW!*** **If a student submits an out of state high school diploma, the training provider must provide a copy of the high school diploma to the program coordinator and receive approval of its validity before enrolling the student in**

their program.

- Be a Michigan resident since at least the immediately preceding year.
    - The student is considered meeting this criterion if they can verify that they have been a Michigan resident for at least one year by the start of the semester/program.
    - ***NEW!*** Training providers are required to collect a State of Michigan ID verifying residency or alternative, acceptable documentation to provide proof of residency.
- Have not earned an associate or bachelor's degree.
- Have not earned a degree, certificate, or other credential with this scholarship.
- ***NEW!*** **Enroll at an eligible institution within 15-months of high school graduation or earning a high school equivalency to initiate the award. See more information in the 15-Month Initiation Requirement section below.**
- Attend three weeks of their career training program (or completed the program if the program is less than three weeks).

Renewal Requirements

In addition to the initial eligibility requirements, to renew, a student must:

- Complete the Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship application.
    - The 2026-27 application is available March 1, 2026 and the deadline is August 1, 2027.
- Maintain Michigan residency as outlined in the initial eligibility requirements.
- Not have an associate or bachelor's degree.
- **Have not earned a degree, certificate, or other credential with this scholarship.**
- ***CLARIFIED!*** **Not have continued to enroll in the same program or with the same Career training provider.**

Note: ***NEW!*** Students will not qualify for a second award automatically. Career training providers must contact the Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship program coordinator if they believe a student qualifies for a second scholarship award.

If an institution or Career training provider becomes aware (i.e., from their own database system) of an applicant or participant who does not meet the student eligibility requirements, they must notify MiLEAP-MASS@Michigan.gov.

Program Award Information

CLARIFIED! Students may receive up to $2,000 (or the actual cost of tuition for their program) if they attend a career training program in Michigan. A student who does not complete their program may receive a second Skills Scholarship in a different academic year for up to $2,000.

Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship Certification

Certification must occur for individual students using the online interface method in MiSSG. To do so, navigate to the Certification menu item under the Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship menu, select a term, and click the Certification Roster button. Technical procedures are available in the Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship MiSSG Manual.

The following steps must be completed to process and receive reimbursement for eligible students meeting the requirements for the Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship:

- All career training providers must complete a Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship School/Eligible Training Provider MiSSG Security Access Request Form to gain access to MiSSG. To request this form, email MiLEAP-MASS@Michigan.gov. This allows providers to access reports and the certification roster.
    - Upon completion of the form, providers must submit the form to the Office of Higher Education at MiStudentAid@Michigan.gov. Upon approval, training providers will receive next steps to finish up their registration in MiSSG. Questions about the form can also be directed to the Office of Higher Education at MiStudentAid@Michigan.gov.
- Career training providers must register in SIGMA to receive payments for students. Questions

about registering for SIGMA can be directed to the Vendor Support Call Center by calling 517-284-0550 or toll free at 888-734-9749 or emailing SIGMA-Vendor@Michigan.gov.

Career training providers must certify student enrollment to request payment from the Office of Higher Education after a student has completed three weeks of active participation starting from day one of the career training program/class or has completed the program if it is less than three weeks.

NEW! If a training provider is found to have certified a student prior to meeting the attendance requirement or cannot sufficiently document student attendance, they will no longer be eligible to participate in the scholarship program and must return all funds provided to students without required attendance documentation.

Note: If a student is attending an eligible course that is less than three weeks (Example: A two-week CNA course), the course must be completed to be eligible for payment.

During the certification process, career training providers will be required to verify they have collected proof of high school diploma or equivalent during the enrollment process. ***NEW!*** Training providers will be required to provide the high school completion date from the documentation collected from the student.

IMPORTANT! Career training providers can only certify students for up to $2,000 or the cost of tuition, whichever is lower.

Training providers cannot request a second payment for a student in the same program.

NEW! Training providers cannot charge students receiving State financial aid (scholarships) differently than their published price or what they charge other students.

Career training providers cannot:

- Charge tuition/program costs not incurred by the student.
- Adjust tuition rates or tuition discounts due to a student's receipt of the scholarship.
- Change its tuition costs due to a student's receipt of the scholarship.
- Include fees that are not part of advertised tuition costs.

During the opt-in process, career training providers may be required to provide their tuition cost for the current year for each of their eligible programs and link to a published webpage that includes published tuition costs for all participants.

All payments are processed monthly beginning November 11, 2026 through September 8, 2027 in MiSSG and will only include awards that have had a certification successfully submitted prior to the payment. A detailed schedule of payments is available on the MI Student Aid website.

Certification of awards can only occur for training programs that begin September 1, 2026 and end three weeks prior to September 8, 2027. The certification process will open in November 2026.

Program Limits

Program eligibility ends when a student has:

- Received the maximum total funding of $4,000 dollars; or
- Earned a degree, certificate, or other credential with this scholarship.

NEW! Note: Students may not participate simultaneously in the Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship and Michigan Achievement Scholarship in the same term.

Special Requirements

Institution Requirements

An eligible student must attend a:

- Michigan eligible Career Training Programs.

A majority of the eligible career training programs are non-Pell-eligible and short-term in nature.

Students may choose to apply for and participate in this scholarship in lieu of or before participating in the Michigan Achievement Scholarship. Upon completion of a credential with an eligible career training program, Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship participants could still be eligible for a Michigan Achievement Scholarship for the maximum five years, less any years spent participating in the Skills Scholarship.

Eligibility Criteria for Participating Career Training Programs and Providers

To identify the career training programs that qualify to receive Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship funds (called "qualified occupational training programs" in State law), programs are initially identified as being listed on the State's Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL), maintained by Michigan Training Connect (MITC). From that database of programs, the criteria set forth in the legislation is applied across programs to filter through the list. The result is a list of career training programs which have met all the legislative requirements to be considered eligible for the Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship.

The ETPL is updated once a year. This process starts after July 1, which is when the Michigan Training Connect begins their annual data and program update.

Career training providers and programs interested in participating in the Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship should follow the Michigan Training Connect (MITC) guidelines for adding programs. Questions about MITC should be directed to LEO-MiTC@Michigan.gov. To participate in the Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship, career training providers are required to "opt-in" and confirm program eligibility along with completing a Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship School/Eligible Training Provider MiSSG Security Access Request Form. Questions on the "opt-in process" should be directed to MiLEAP-MASS@Michigan.gov.

To qualify as **a participating career training program and provider**, the following criteria must be met:

- **Instruction Hours and Duration**: Offers between 150 and 600 clock hours of instruction over 8 to 15 weeks.
    - Exception: This does not apply to healthcare programs offering didactic instruction that leads to an industry-recognized credential for high-demand occupations.
- **Industry Alignment**: Aligns with high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand industry sectors in Michigan, as determined by the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity in consultation with the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives.
- **Training Provider Listing**: Is listed on Michigan's Eligible Training Provider List maintained by the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity.
- **Credential Outcome**: Awards a recognized postsecondary credential that is stackable and portable across employers and regions.
- **Wage Outcomes**: Demonstrates that, within six months of program completion, graduates earn at least 20% more than the median income of all enrollees six months before enrollment.
    - Exception: This does not apply to healthcare programs as described above.
- **Licensure or Certification Preparation**: If preparing students for a professional license or certification exam, demonstrates that completers are eligible and prepared to take and pass the exam.
- **Program Longevity**: Has been in operation for at least one year.
- **Credit Articulation** (for higher education institutions): Includes credit articulation for students completing non-credit job training programs.
- **Registered Apprenticeship**: If offered through an apprenticeship, the program must be registered with the U.S. Department of Labor under the National Apprenticeship Act (29 USC 50 et seq.).

15-Month Initiation Requirement

NEW! Students must initiate their Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship within 15-months of high school

graduation or earning a high school equivalency certificate. Initiation is defined as enrolling at any enrollment level at a participating Career Training Program within 15-months of high school graduation or earning a high school equivalency certificate.

Training providers are expected to monitor if a student will initiate within 15-months of high school graduation prior to a student beginning attendance in the training program.

Initiation in MiSSG begins when the ***first*** of one of the following conditions is met:

- A Michigan Achievement Scholarship or Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship payment of $0.01 or greater, or
- The certification of a Michigan Achievement Scholarship or Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship award as "NO - Full-Time - exceeds COA/T&F," or
- Certification of Michigan Achievement Scholarship or Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship award as "NO" with any enrollment level other than "Not Enrolled," or
- Manually entering a student's first term of enrollment using the override process in MiSSG.

Note: Dual enrollment or Early Middle College Enrollment semesters are not counted towards Michigan Achievement Scholarship initiation.

The 15-month periods are shown below in the table. MiSSG will track students 15-month eligibility.

Example: A student completed high school requirements in February of 2026, their final semester to initiate will be Summer of 2027.

Graduation Month	Final Semester/Term to Initiate
January	Summer
February	
March	
April	Fall
May	
June	
July	
August	
September	Winter/Spring
October	
November	
December	

Additional Program Details

Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship Special Reporting Requirements

By accepting Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship funds, career training providers agree to participate in data collection and quality assurance protocols established by statute, along with data collection and quality assurance protocols established by the Office of Higher Education for the purpose of accurately tracking student outcomes. Refusal to provide documentation will result in removal of training programs and provider eligibility from program.

Date Credential Earned

NEW! Training providers must report 'Date Credential Earned' **by September 30** in MiSSG for all students

who received the Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship in the prior academic year and who completed the program to receive a credential. Training providers must provide this information to continue to participate in the Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship. Please note that this information can be added by authorized MiSSG 'Update' and 'Administrator' School Users. However, the 'Date Credential Earned' cannot be deleted or changed by the School User. If an update needs to be made to the student record, please contact program coordinator Don Florinchi, FlorinchiD@Michigan.gov.

Michigan Competitive Scholarship

Contact

Program Coordinator: Caroline Nurenberg, NurenbergC4@Michigan.gov

Description

Provides renewable scholarships for undergraduate students attending eligible Michigan postsecondary institutions. Awards are based on both academic merit and financial need.

Michigan Competitive Scholarship is no longer available to students who have graduated high school (or its equivalent) in 2023 or greater. Michigan Competitive Scholarship will permanently end September 30, 2029.

Application

The FAFSA serves as the application and must have been completed by renewal students by July 1, 2026 for Academic Year 2026-27.

Student Requirements/Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for an award, a MCS student must:

- Achieve a qualifying test score by June 30 of the academic year in which the student completes high school or its recognized equivalent.
    - Class of 2016 and prior, a qualifying score is an ACT composite score of 23 or higher.
    - Class of 2017 and later, a qualifying score is a SAT score of 1200 or higher.
- File a current year Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
    - A completed FAFSA is required and it must be verified if selected for verification.
- Demonstrate financial need.
- Not be in default on a Federal student loan.
- Not be incarcerated.
- Be a Michigan resident since July 1 of the previous calendar year.
    - If the applicant is a dependent student, the first contributor's state and date of residency on the FAFSA is used to determine Michigan residency. The applicant's address from the FAFSA and the MiSSG student record is also used to evaluate residency.
- Be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or approved refugee.
- Be enrolled at least half-time at a participating institution.
    - Courses outside of the degree program may count toward the enrollment requirement and covered costs.
- Possess a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent.
    - Proof of high school completion is required.
- Meet the institution's Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy.

Renewal Requirements

In addition to the initial eligibility requirements, to renew, a student must:

- File a current year Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
    - A completed FAFSA is required and it must be verified if selected for verification.
- Maintain a minimum cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least a 2.0.
- Maintain Michigan residency as outlined in the initial eligibility requirements.
- Be an undergraduate student.
- Enroll at least half-time at a participating institution.
    - Courses outside of the degree program may count toward the enrollment requirement and covered costs.
- Meet the institution's Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy.

Program Award Information

Award maximum is $1,500 per academic year. Award is tuition-specific and may also include mandatory fees. MCS does not restrict what classes a student can enroll in. Courses outside of the degree program may count toward the enrollment requirement and covered costs.

Eligible students attending Michigan private or independent degree-granting, non-profit institution are eligible to receive up to $3,000 per academic year from the Michigan Tuition Grant supplement.

Award amount is based on legislative appropriations.

Maximum semester or term awards are prorated by the student's enrollment.

- Full-time
    - Semester: $750
    - Term: $500
- Three-quarter-time
    - Fall Semester: $563
    - Spring Semester: $562
    - Term: $375
- Half-time
    - Semester: $375
    - Term: $250

Semester/Term Awards

- Fall: Yes
- Winter: Yes
    - Term institutions only.
- Spring: Yes
- Summer: No

MCS Certification

Awards can be certified with an uploaded text file in MiSSG that the institution can create by using the MCS/MTG Download Roster File as a base or by other methods such as exporting a text file from the institution's own internal system. The uploaded file must meet the specifications listed in the MCS/MTG Upload Certification Roster File Format which is available at Michigan.gov/MiSSG in the 'MiSSG File Formats for College Administrators' section.

Alternatively, certification may occur for students individually by using the online interface method in MiSSG. To do so, navigate to the Certification menu item under the Michigan Competitive Scholarship menu, select a term, and click the Certification Roster button. Technical procedures are available in the Aid Administrators MiSSG Manual.

Program Limits

Program eligibility ends when the student has:

- Been determined eligible for Michigan Achievement Scholarship; or
- Received a bachelor's degree; or
- Exhausted their check counts.*
- Had ten years elapse since high school completion or its recognized equivalent.
    - For students who were eligible for a payment Spring 2020 and anytime during the 2020-21 Academic Year, they will receive 11 years of eligibility.

*Check count is the method used to monitor MCS usage. Each student will have a starting pool of 60 check counts and may not receive another MCS award once this pool is exhausted.

Special Requirements

Institution Requirements

Participating Institutions

An eligible student must attend a:

- Michigan public degree-granting, community college, Tribal college, or public university; or
- Michigan private or independent degree-granting, non-profit institution.
- Cannot be an institution whose primary purpose is to prepare students for ordination or appointment as a member of the clergy of a church, denomination, or religious sect.

MCS Budget

Institutional Budget

MiSSG requires prior year institutional budgets when calculating current year awards. MiSSG begins loading ISIRs and making tentative awards to students in late fall. Since institutional budgets are often not finalized until the following summer, prior year budgets must be used.

Institutional budgets used to calculate 2027-28 awards (with prior-year 2026-27 data) must be entered in MiSSG beginning September 1, 2026 and completed by October 1, 2026.

To update your institution's 2027-28 budget, please follow these instructions:

1. Log into MiSSG.
2. Select Michigan Competitive Scholarship from the MiSSG Menu.
3. Select School Profile.
4. Change the Academic Year at the top of the screen from Year 2026-27 to 2027-28.
5. Select Budget.
6. Enter both the Tuition and Fees and Room and Board using your institution's 2027-28 Budget Information.
    a. Note: If there is no change to budget amounts, click, "The budget amounts have been reviewed and approved," check box.
7. Save.

For private institutions, once the MCS budget is entered, the MTG budget fields will populate automatically with the same budget information. No further action is required in the MTG school profile regarding the budget after MCS is updated.

If a budget is not entered by October 1, 2026 your 2026-27 Budget Information will be used for 2027-28 awards.

Note: Institutions that report their own room and board costs must be able to provide proof to the Office of Higher Education upon request that at least 10% of their enrollment resides in the institution's dorms.

State Budget

The Office of Higher Education uses the Consumer Price Index when determining the State budget amounts used for MCS, which is entered in MiSSG annually.

Calculation of Award

To establish initial eligibility, the Office of Higher Education uses the institutional budget in MiSSG for the student's grade level (determined by the FAFSA) and a student's Student Aid Index (SAI). A negative SAI is treated as zero SAI for purposes of determining need.

If the SAI is less than the institutional budget for the grade level, then financial need is demonstrated. The student may receive an award up to the maximum award amount, but not more than the demonstrated need (budget – SAI).

After the initial eligibility is established, the institution does not need to re-calculate financial need based

on a change in Cost of Attendance (COA) or budget.

Minimum Award

For students need of $1 to $99, the minimum award amount in MiSSG is $100 ($50 Fall and $50 Spring). For term institutions, the institution will make the determination. The award must be monitored per the guidelines provided below.

Check counts do apply; therefore, if a student wishes to forgo their award to save their check counts, the award can be cancelled.

Monitoring of Award

The institution must monitor that the student does not have other tuition-specific aid or other financial resources that would exceed the student's COA.

The student's individual Cost of Attendance and SAI may be used when monitoring awards.

Tuition-specific Awards

If a student receives an additional tuition-specific award, the institution must monitor that the combination of the additional award and the MCS award does not exceed the student's actual tuition and mandatory fees.

To evaluate:

1. Subtract the SAI from the current institutional budget for the appropriate grade level, which may differ from the institutional budget MiSSG used to calculate the student's initial eligibility.
2. Subtract other tuition-specific aid from need to determine the revised need.

EXAMPLE	Amount
a) Current Institutional Budget	$25,000
b) SAI	15,000
c) Adjusted Need (a minus b)	$10,000
d) Other Tuition-specific Aid	$6,000
e) Demonstrated Need (c minus d)	$4,000

3. Student need is $4,000; therefore, award can be certified at the maximum award amount.

Note: The revised MCS award cannot be higher than the initial award.

Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver

Contact

Program Coordinator: Erin Burd, BurdE@Michigan.gov

Description

The Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver (MITW) program waives the tuition costs for eligible Native American students at Michigan's public community college and universities.

Application

To complete an initial application, students can access the application at Michigan.gov/MITW. Applicants must first complete the student section of the initial application (one time only). The student will then submit the MITW application and accompanying documents to their Tribal Enrollment Department for certification. For first-time applicants, the completed application should be submitted by the Tribal Enrollment Department via email at MITW@Michigan.gov or U.S. Mail to:

MI Student Aid
P.O. Box 30462
Lansing, MI 48909

In addition to the MITW application, the following document must also be submitted:

- Applicant's photocopy of their Tribal ID.

NEW! After the application has been processed and if the student is determined eligible, a notification of eligibility will be emailed to the student, and the institution will see the student appear on the 'Eligible Students Report – MITW' in MiSSG. If determined ineligible, a denial letter will be emailed to the student stating the reason(s) for denial.

Students do not need to complete a FAFSA to qualify.

Student Requirements/Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for the waiver, a student must:

- Complete an initial application (one-time only).
- Qualify for admission at one of Michigan's public colleges or universities, AND
- Be ¼ or more Native American blood quantum as certified by their Tribal Enrollment Department, AND
- Are an enrolled citizen of a U.S. Federally Recognized Tribe as certified by their Tribal Enrollment Department, AND
- Be a legal resident of the state of Michigan for not less than 12 consecutive months. Students are verified through one of the following methods:
    1. Office of Higher Education confirmation of the establishment of legal residency via access to Secretary of State (SOS) records (verifying that the student has established legal residency with SOS by, for example, obtaining a driver's license or State ID or registering to vote).
    2. If SOS records cannot demonstrate legal residency, a Tribal ID that includes a Michigan address and an issuance date at least 12 months prior to the MITW application can be reviewed to demonstrate legal residency.

Renewal Requirements

In addition to the initial eligibility requirements, to renew, a student must:

- Maintain Michigan residency as outlined in the initial eligibility requirements.

Program Award Information

Institutions receive appropriations for MITW through the State budget process to be applied toward eligible students' tuition only. No actual funds are received by the student. Tuition should be entirely covered by the tuition waiver and in some cases may be charged/credited or waived entirely. All additional expenses (student fees, lab fees, room and board, books, etc.) are the responsibility of the student.

Reimbursement for prior semesters is not permitted. MITW is only applied to the student's current and subsequent future semesters.

Semester/Term Awards

- Fall: Yes
- Winter: Yes
- Spring: Yes
- Summer: Yes

Program Limits

Program eligibility ends when a student is no longer:

- Enrolled in a Michigan public community college or university, or
- A Michigan resident, or
- An enrolled citizen of a federally recognized tribe.

Note: The statute **does not** limit tuition waiver eligibility based upon full/part-time status, degree track, number of certificates and/or degrees, academic performance, or similar criteria, and such information will not affect the Office of Higher Education verification.

Special Requirements

Institution Requirements

Participating Institutions

An eligible student must attend a:

- Michigan public degree-granting, community college, Tribal college, or public university.

Additional Program Details

MITW Reporting Requirements

Pursuant to Public Act 25 of 2026, the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP) is required to submit an annual report to the legislature regarding the usage and cost of the North American Indian Tuition waiver (also known as the Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver program).

A significant amount of the information required in the report is not accessible to the Office of Higher Education without the assistance from institutions. For this reason, the legislature has included supporting language in the legislation which states that an institution receiving tuition waiver funds, including Tribal colleges receiving pass-through funds, provide data to the Office of Higher Education according to the guidelines and procedures developed by the Office of Higher Education.

Note: Four-year universities serving as a pass-through fiduciary for a Tribal college will only need to submit their institution's data. The Tribal college will be responsible for submitting their own data.

Institutions must submit their data to the Office of Higher Education no later than December 31, 2026. A notification and template will be issued to institutions in the fall for the data collection request.

Michigan Reconnect Scholarship/Michigan Reconnect Expansion

Contact

For questions on program policy, email both:

- Program Administrator: MiLEAP-Reconnect@Michigan.gov
- Program Coordinator: Don Florinchi, FlorinchiD@Michigan.gov

Description

NEW! Michigan Reconnect (Reconnect) is a State of Michigan scholarship program for Michigan's adults, established with the Michigan Reconnect Grant Act (P.A. 68 of 2020) and Michigan Reconnect Grant Recipient Act (P.A. 84 of 2020). The scholarship offers free or discounted tuition to Michigan residents **21 or older** (P.A. 25 of 2026), without college degrees, at any of Michigan's public community colleges, including its three Tribal colleges, to pursue a Pell-eligible associate degree or industry-recognized certificates.

Michigan Reconnect Expansion (Reconnect Expansion) is a State of Michigan scholarship program for Michigan's adults. The scholarship offers free or discounted tuition to Michigan residents 21-24 for a limited time, without college degrees, at any of Michigan's public community colleges, including its three Tribal colleges, to pursue a Pell-eligible associate degree or industry-recognized certificates. P.A. 119 of 2023, (Sec. 606 2023-PA-0119) temporarily expanded Michigan Reconnect benefits between October 1, 2023, and December 31, 2024.

Application

Interested Michiganders must first complete and submit a one-time Reconnect application at Michigan.gov/Reconnect. The Reconnect Expansion application had a deadline of December 31, 2024. Michigan Reconnect has no application deadline.

CLARIFIED! Michiganders aged 21-24 who submitted an application during the Expansion, but did not enroll on or before Summer 2025, will need to submit a new Reconnect application.

To initiate participation in the scholarship, accepted applicants must then:

- Apply to and be admitted to one of Michigan's public community colleges.
- File a current year Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Enroll at an eligible institution in at least one credit or more in a Pell-eligible program leading to an associate degree or industry-recognized certificate.
    - ***NEW!*** Students participating in Michigan Reconnect Expansion must have enrolled no later than Summer 2025. Students may re-apply for Reconnect. If the student previously participated in Reconnect Expansion, they will receive a message in the MiSSG Student Portal once their Reconnect application is submitted that they are not eligible.

Student Requirements/Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for an award, a student must:

- Complete and submit an initial application on the Reconnect Web site (one time only).
- ***NEW!*** Be at least **21 years of age** or older at the time of application.
    - For Reconnect Expansion, be at least 21 years of age or older at the time of application and before December 31, 2024.
- File a current year Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
    - A submitted FAFSA is required and does not need to be completed or verified (**unless selected for identity verification**).
- For Reconnect: An applicant must have maintained continuous Michigan residency for at least the immediately preceding year.
    - For Reconnect purposes:
        - An independent student is considered meeting this criterion if they can verify that they have been a Michigan resident for at least one year by the start of the

semester.
        - ***NEW!*** A dependent student is considered meeting this criterion if the contributor(s) on the FAFSA is also a Michigan resident since July 1 of the previous calendar year.
            - The first contributor's state and date of residency on the FAFSA is used to determine Michigan residency. The applicant's address from the FAFSA and the MiSSG student record is also used to evaluate residency.
        - ***NEW!*** If a student's parent does not sign the FAFSA, but the institution collects documentation from the parent that the parent refuses to complete the FAFSA and does not provide any financial support to the student, the student can be eligible for Reconnect. The institution must collect documentation, including a State of Michigan ID, showing the student had been a resident one year prior to the beginning of the semester in which they are receiving Reconnect. The institution must update the student's residency in MiSSG.
- For Reconnect Expansion: An applicant must be a Michigan resident since July 1 of the previous calendar year.
    - If the applicant is a dependent student, the first contributor's state and date of residency on the FAFSA is used to determine Michigan residency. The applicant's address from the FAFSA and the MiSSG student record is also used to evaluate residency.
    - If a student's parent does not sign the FAFSA, but the institution collects documentation from the parent that the parent refuses to complete the FAFSA and does not provide any financial support to the student, the student can be eligible for Reconnect. The institution must collect documentation showing the student had been a resident one year prior to the beginning of the semester in which they are receiving Reconnect. The institution must update the student's residency in MiSSG.
- Possess a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent.
    - Self-certification (on the Reconnect scholarship application) of high school completion is acceptable, but should be Federally verified if required.
- Not have an associate or bachelor's degree.
    - If the student has a credential from another country, the credential should be evaluated. If, upon evaluation, it's determined their credential is not the equivalent of an associate degree, the student could be eligible for the scholarship program.
- Be enrolled at an accredited Michigan public community college including Michigan's Tribal colleges.
    - For Reconnect Expansion, students must have enrolled before the end of the 2024-25 Academic Year at their community college and began receiving the award or be marked as 'Eligible No Reimbursement.'

Renewal Requirements

In addition to the initial eligibility requirements, to renew, a student must:

- File a current year Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
    - A submitted FAFSA is required and does not need to be completed or verified (**unless selected for identity verification**).
- Maintain Michigan residency as outlined in the initial eligibility requirements.
- Not have an associate or bachelor's degree.
- Maintain continuous enrollment.
    - Earn at least 12 credits in their program of study each academic year, unless a scholarship leave of absence has been approved. Participants will be evaluated on this criterion once they have begun an academic year.
        - New participants who start in a Fall semester must meet this criterion by the end of the academic year.
        - New participants who start on a Winter/Spring or Summer semester must earn 12 credit hours during the following academic year.

        - If the student does not earn at least 12 credits by the end of the academic year, the institution must report this in MiSSG as not meeting minimum credit hours earned.
- Be maintaining Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) or a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 at the institution since becoming a Reconnect participant at the end of the academic year in which the student was required to earn and earned 12 credit hours.
    - If the student did not earn 12 credit hours and was required to earn 12 credit hours, report student in MiSSG as not meeting minimum credit hours earned.
    - If the institution is calculating the student's cumulative minimum 2.0 GPA, grades earned prior to the student's participation in Reconnect are not to be considered in the calculation.
    - ***CLARIFIED!*** At the end of the academic year, after confirming the student earned 12 credit hours, if the student does not meet SAP and also does not meet the required minimum GPA, the student must be reported in MiSSG as 'SAP and GPA Not Met' and the student will no longer be eligible to continue with the scholarship program.

Note: If a Reconnect participant does not meet one or more of the eligibility criteria to continue maintaining the scholarship, the eligible institution will not submit a reimbursement or 'Eligible No Reimbursement' report on behalf of the student. The student will permanently lose the ability to participate in the Reconnect program and their participation cannot be reinstated unless a scholarship leave of absence applies.

Program Award Information

Reconnect and Reconnect Expansion are a last-dollar scholarship, which is equal to the difference between in-district tuition and fees (i.e., tuition, contact hours, and mandatory fees) and any Pell Grant, TIP, and any State tuition-restricted scholarships or awards that a student receives. Reconnect will only cover courses toward the student's certificate or degree program.

Reconnect participants may change the program of study in which they are enrolled providing the change is to a Pell-eligible associate degree or industry-recognized certificate program. Courses for which a student receives Michigan Reconnect funding must go toward their current program of study. The four-year limit on the length of time one may receive a Reconnect scholarship still applies, regardless of program of study changes.

A Reconnect participant may be considered 'Eligible No Reimbursement' if they have other scholarships or awards that cover their in-district tuition, mandatory fees, and contact hours or choose not to utilize Reconnect funds if they have other scholarships or awards that fit their financial needs better. Reconnect participants who are 'Eligible No Reimbursement' are still considered participants of the award and must still meet the Student Eligibility and Program Eligibility requirements to avoid losing the scholarship and be able to receive more than $0 Reconnect in future semesters.

Reconnect will only pay for developmental educations courses offered through a corequisite model. Any additional remediation programs, the institution considers appropriate are subject to all the following:

- Serve as a supplement to, not as an alternative, to the corequisite model.
- Evidence-based rationale for the program, to be reported in the annual compliance report.
- Offered at no charge to Reconnect students or offered outside of the tuition and fee structure.

Institutions may use foundation or other local funding sources or refer students to adult education providers. Institutions cannot charge Reconnect students for developmental courses that are not a corequisite of a college level course.

Semester/Term Awards

- Fall: Yes
- Winter: Yes
    - Term institutions only.

- Spring: Yes
- Summer: Yes

Reconnect Reimbursement Requests

When submitting a reimbursement request or reporting 'Eligible No Reimbursement' on behalf of a Reconnect student, the eligible institution is confirming that the student meets the requirements to continue to receive the award.

Reimbursement requests may be submitted with an uploaded text file in MiSSG that the institution can create from using the Download Roster File as a base or by other methods such as exporting a text file from the institution's own internal system. The uploaded file must meet the specifications listed in the Reconnect Upload Reimbursement File Format which is available at Michigan.gov/MiSSG in the 'MiSSG File Formats for College Administrators' section.

Alternatively, reimbursement requests may be submitted for individual students by using the online interface method in MiSSG. To do so, navigate to the Reconnect Reimbursement Request menu item under the Michigan Reconnect Scholarship menu, select a term, and click the Reimbursement Roster button. Technical procedures are available in the Reconnect MiSSG Manual.

The most recent institution that submits a reimbursement for a student, prior to payment processing, is where funds will be disbursed to.

Program Limits

Program eligibility ends when a student has:

- Four years have passed from the first reimbursement or 'Eligible No Reimbursement' report that the Office of Higher Education receives.
    - Note: This timeline may be adjusted for students who have an approved leave of absence.
- The student has earned an associate degree.

Note: Students who apply and participate in the Reconnect Expansion cannot apply for Reconnect.

Special Requirements

Institution Requirements

An eligible student must attend a:

- Michigan public degree-granting, community college, or Tribal college.

Additional Program Details

Eligible Programs of Study

Pell-eligible program at an eligible institution leading to an associate degree or industry- recognized certificate.

Interested Reconnect applicants, who have not yet earned an associate or bachelor's degree, but have earned a certificate previously and are currently enrolled in an associate degree program are eligible to apply for this program.

Reconnect will only cover the cost of one program at any given time.

CLARIFIED! Reconnect participants who choose to pursue an industry-recognized certificate can still go on to pursue their associate degree.

Reconnect will cover the cost for the certificate and associate degree within the four-year limit. If the course of study is not completed within the four-year Reconnect limit, the student will be responsible for covering the remaining cost of their academic program.

Reconnect will only cover the cost of one (1) certificate within the four-year limit.

U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) apprenticeship programs are not eligible. If an apprenticeship program informs apprentices that completion of a Pell-eligible associate degree or industry-recognized certificate at the community college counts toward the academic requirement of the apprenticeship program, the apprentice could attend the community college tuition-free; however, that is an arrangement between the union and the apprentice. Non-Pell-eligible courses or courses outside of the community college are not available for the Reconnect scholarship.

Guest/visiting students are not eligible for this award.

Leave of Absence

A participant, who takes a leave of absence from an eligible institution and is unable to earn a minimum of 12 credits by the end of the academic year due to an approved hardship, may continue to receive their award upon resuming their education at an eligible institution provided there is continued program funding and the student continues to meet all applicable eligibility requirements for the scholarship program. The time in which the student was not continuously enrolled does not count toward the student's four-year time limit.

The leave of absence process, review, and approval is to be managed by, and is at the discretion of, the eligible institution. The Office of Higher Education does also consider the following reasons to be considered allowable issues of hardship:

- Fulfilment of a religious commitment expected of all students of that faith,
- A participant's participation in an internship or co-op program that is required or encouraged as part of the academic program in which they are enrolled, or
- Participants who become waitlisted for their program or provided a late start date after pre-requisite courses are completed for their curriculum.

If a student's leave of absence is approved by the eligible institution, community college staff with access to MiSSG will enter in a leave of absence for all semesters the student missed during the leave of absence within the student's record in MiSSG. Leave of absence decisions should include documentation of the circumstances that the college retains.

Special Reporting

By accepting Reconnect scholarship funds, community colleges agree to participate in data collection and quality assurance protocols established by statute. This includes an annual compliance report to the Office of Higher Education due every June 30.

In addition to the above report, community colleges agree to participate in data collection and quality assurance protocols established by the Office of Higher Education for the purpose of accurately tracking student outcomes, i.e., reporting associate degree and certificates earned in MiSSG. Reconnect participants who are 'Eligible No Reimbursement' should still be included in all reporting by the institution.

Institutions must report graduation data in MiSSG for Reconnect/Expansion recipients each semester.

Reconnect Navigator Support

Michigan Reconnect Navigators are available to help Michigan Reconnect students start on their path to a college degree or certificate. This includes applying for Federal and State student aid, setting a career goal, selecting a program of study, registering for classes and creating a plan to graduate.

Michigan Tuition Grant

Contact

Program Coordinator: Caroline Nurenberg, NurenbergC4@Michigan.gov

Description

Provides renewable scholarships for undergraduate students attending eligible private or independent degree-granting, non-profit institutions. Awards are based on financial need.

CLARIFIED! **The Michigan Tuition Grant is no longer available to students who did not initiate (received a paid MCS or MTG award) in Academic Year 2023-24 or prior. Michigan Tuition Grant will permanently end September 30, 2029.**

Application

The FAFSA serves as the application and must be completed by renewal students by July 1, 2026 for Academic Year 2026-27.

Student Requirements/Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for an award, a student must:

- File a current year FAFSA: Completed.
  - A completed FAFSA is required and it must be verified if selected for verification.
- Demonstrate financial need.
- Not be in default on a Federal student loan.
- Not be incarcerated.
- Be a Michigan resident since July 1 of the previous calendar year.
  - If the applicant is a dependent student, the first contributor's state and date of residency on the FAFSA is used to determine Michigan residency. The applicant's address from the FAFSA and the MiSSG student record is also used to evaluate residency.
- Be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or approved refugee.
- Be enrolled at least half-time.
  - Cannot be enrolled in a course of study leading to a degree in theology, divinity, or religious education.
  - Courses outside of the degree program may count toward the enrollment requirement and covered costs.
- Possess a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent.
  - Proof of high school completion is required.
- Be an undergraduate student.
- Meet the institution's Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy.

Renewal Requirements

In addition to the initial eligibility requirements, to renew, a student must:

- File a current year Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
  - A completed FAFSA is required and it must be verified if selected for verification.
- Maintain Michigan residency as outlined in the initial eligibility requirements.
- Be an undergraduate student.
- Enroll at least half-time at a participating institution.
  - Cannot be enrolled in a course of study leading to a degree in theology, divinity, or religious education.
  - Courses outside of the degree program may count toward the enrollment requirement and covered costs.
- Meet the institution's Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy.

Program Award Information

Award maximum is $3,000 per academic year. Award is tuition-specific and may also include mandatory fees. MTG does not restrict what classes a student can enroll in. Courses outside of the degree program may count toward the enrollment requirement and covered costs.

Award amount is based on legislative appropriations.

Maximum semester or term awards are prorated by the student's enrollment.

- Full-time
  - Semester: $1,500
  - Term: $1,000
- Three-quarter-time
  - Semester: $1,125
  - Term: $750
- Half-time
  - Semester: $750
  - Term: $500

Semester/Term Awards

- Fall: Yes
- Winter: Yes
  - Term institutions only.
- Spring: Yes
- Summer: No

MTG Certification

Awards can be certified with an uploaded text file in MiSSG that the institution can create by using the MCS/MTG Download Roster File as a base or by other methods such as exporting a text file from the institution's own internal system. The uploaded file must meet the specifications listed in the MCS/MTG Upload Certification Roster File Format also available at Michigan.gov/MiSSG in the 'MiSSG File Formats for College Administrators' section.

Alternatively, certification may occur for students individually by using the online interface method in MiSSG. To do so, navigate to the Certification menu item under the Michigan Tuition Grant menu, select a term, and click the Certification Roster button. Technical procedures are available in the Aid Administrators MiSSG Manual.

Program Limits

Program eligibility ends when the student has:

- Exhausted all remaining check counts.*
  - For students who were eligible for a payment Spring 2020 and anytime during Academic Year 2020-21, they will receive up to 72 check counts of eligibility.

*Check count is the method used to monitor MTG usage. Each student will have a starting pool of 60 check counts and may not receive another MTG award once this pool is exhausted.

Special Requirements

Institution Requirements

Participating Institutions

An eligible student must attend a:

- Michigan private or independent degree-granting, non-profit institution.

MTG Budget

Institutional Budget

MiSSG requires prior year institutional budgets when calculating current year awards. MiSSG begins loading ISIRs and making tentative awards to students in late fall. Since institutional budgets are often not finalized until the following summer, prior year budgets must be used.

Institutional budgets used to calculate 2027-28 awards must have been entered in MiSSG beginning September 1, 2026 and completed by October 1, 2026. Once an institution enters their MCS Budget, the MTG Budget will automatically populate in MiSSG with the same budget information. No further action is required in the MTG School Profile regarding the budget after MCS is updated. Please refer to the MCS Budget for additional details.

Note: Institutions that report their own room and board costs must be able to provide proof to the Office of Higher Education upon request that at least 10% of their enrollment resides in the institution's dorms.

State Budget

The Office of Higher Education uses the Consumer Price Index when determining the State budget amounts used for MTG, which is entered in MiSSG annually.

Calculation of Award

To establish eligibility, the Office of Higher Education uses the institutional budget in MiSSG for the student's grade level (determined by the FAFSA) and a student's Student Aid Index (SAI). A negative SAI is treated as zero SAI for purposes of determining need.

If the SAI is less than the institutional budget for the grade level then financial need is demonstrated. The student may receive an award up to the maximum award amount, but not more than the demonstrated need (budget – SAI).

After the initial eligibility is established, the institution does not need to re-calculate financial need based on a change in Cost of Attendance (COA) or budget.

Minimum Award

For students need of $1 to $99, the minimum award amount in MiSSG is $100 ($50 Fall and $50 Spring). For term institutions, the institution will make the determination. The award must be monitored per the guidelines provided below.

Check counts do apply; therefore, if a student wishes to forgo their award to save their check counts, the award can be cancelled.

Monitoring of Award

The institution must monitor that the student does not have other tuition-specific aid or other financial resources that would exceed the student's need or tuition and fees (whichever is less).

The student's individual Cost of Attendance and SAI may be used when monitoring awards.

Tuition-specific Awards

If a student receives an additional tuition-specific award, the institution must monitor that the combination of the additional award and the MTG award does not exceed the student's COA.

To evaluate:

1. Subtract the SAI from the current institutional budget for the appropriate grade level, which may differ from the institutional budget MiSSG used to calculate the student's initial eligibility.
2. Subtract other tuition-specific aid from need to determine the revised need.

EXAMPLE	Amount
a) Current Institutional Budget	$25,000
b) SAI	15,000
c) Adjusted Need (a minus b)	$10,000
d) Other Tuition-specific Aid	$6,000
e) Demonstrated Need (c minus d)	$4,000

3. Student need is $4,000; therefore, award can be certified at the maximum award amount.

Additional Program Details

MTG Special Reporting

Institutions that receive MTG funds are required to report data by October 31 yearly (pursuant to Public Act 25 of 2026) that includes MTG recipients, MTG recipients in remedial education classes, and total Pell recipients who also receive MTG.

MTG data is collected by the Michigan Independent Colleges and Universities (MICU) and submitted to the Office of Higher Education on behalf of the entire MICU membership.

Nonpublic Dual Enrollment

Contact

Contact for Payment (MiLEAP): Program Coordinator: Christy Williams, WilliamsC96@Michigan.gov

Contact for Program Information (MDE): Jeff McNeal at McNealJ@Michigan.gov.

Description

Provides funding for nonpublic high school students to complete up to ten college courses between 9th grade and 12th grade. The Office of Higher Education administers the Nonpublic Dual Enrollment payments and works closely with the Michigan Department of Education for program needs.

NEW! The Office of Higher Education will be implementing changes to the billing process beginning in Academic Year 2026-27. Additional details will be provided once MiSSG upgrades are completed.

For full program details, please reference the MI Student Aid and Michigan Department of Education Web sites.

Application

Secondary schools provide letters of eligibility to nonpublic school students.

Student Requirements/Eligibility Criteria

Students are identified and approved by their high school.

Program Award Information

Nonpublic Dual Enrollment funds may be used for eligible charges including:

- Tuition
    - In-district Tuition if attending a Michigan community college
- Mandatory fees
- Materials fees (including books)
- Registration fees

Annual Maximum Billable Course Limit

- 9th grade: No more than two courses each year in 9th, 10th, and 11th grade and no more than four courses in 12th grade.
- 10th grade: No more than two courses in 10th grade and no more than four courses in 11th and 12th grade.
- 11th and 12th grade: No more than six courses per year.

Semester/Term Awards

- Fall: Yes
- Winter: Yes
    - Term institutions only.
- Spring: Yes
- Summer: Yes

Nonpublic Dual Enrollment Reimbursement Requests

NEW! Institutions must complete and submit a Billing Form per term in MiSSG for courses taken within Academic Year 2026-27 (*this feature is coming soon*).

Before submitting a Nonpublic Dual Enrollment Billing Form, the institution must confirm the following:

- A letter signed by each student's principal indicating their eligibility under the Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act was provided to each student. MCL 388.514(1)

- Each student has received sufficient information and counseling services by their nonpublic school, including the consequences of failing or not completing a postsecondary course. MCL 388.519(1)
- Courses not considered non-essential electives are taken for postsecondary credit only. MCL 388.517(3).

NEW! Billings Forms may (*soon*) be submitted in MiSSG with an uploaded text file that the institution can access from MiSSG (*coming soon*) as a base. The uploaded file must meet the specifications listed in the *Nonpublic Dual Enrollment Upload File Format* (*coming soon*) which is available at Michigan.gov/MiSSG in the 'MiSSG File Formats for College Administrators' section (*coming soon*).

Once a payment is made, adjustments to increase or decrease a payment for an individual student can be performed by accessing the student's record in MiSSG.

Technical procedures are available in the *Nonpublic Dual Enrollment MiSSG Manual* (*coming soon*).

Note: Nonpublic Dual Enrollment Billing Forms previously provided by MDE will no longer be accepted. All payment requests must be processed through MiSSG.

Program Limits

Program eligibility ends when a student has:

- Completed high school; or
- Completed ten college courses; or
- Received Nonpublic Dual Enrollment funds in four academic years.

Special Requirements

Institution Requirements

An eligible student must attend a:

- Michigan public degree-granting, community college, Tribal college, or public university; or
- Michigan private or independent degree-granting, non-profit institution.

Additional Program Details

- For students from a public high school, the postsecondary institution will bill the high school's district.
- ***NEW!*** For students from a nonpublic high school, the postsecondary institution will submit a Request for Reimbursement in MiSSG which will verify courses and costs. The Office of Higher Education will process the payment according to the quarterly payment schedule.
- ***CLARIFIED!*** A student who does not successfully complete a course shall repay the Office of Higher Education any eligible charges expended and not refunded by the postsecondary institution. Student's must:
    - Submit a check for the refund payable to: State of Michigan
    - Include a letter with the student's name, high school, college attended and semester.
    - Mail to: Office of Higher Education, Refunds, P.O. Box 30782, Lansing, MI 48909

Police Officer's and Fire Fighter's Survivor Tuition Grant

Contact

Program Coordinator: Christy Williams, WilliamsC96@Michigan.gov

Description

Provides a waiver of tuition at Michigan community colleges, Tribal colleges, and public universities for the natural or adopted children and surviving spouses of Michigan police officers and fire fighters killed in the line of duty.

Application

Students must complete an initial application (one time only). The deadline to apply is June 30, 2027.

- The 2026-27 application was available January 1, 2026.
- The 2027-28 applications is available October 1, 2026.

To complete an initial application or check the status, the student can log into the MiSSG Student Portal at Michigan.gov/MiSSG. In addition to the STG application, the following documents must also be submitted:

- Applicant's (if applicant is the child) Birth Certificate (must include police officer or fire fighter's name as a parent).
- Marriage certificate (if applicant is the spouse).
- Death Certificate of the police officer of fire fighter.

Student Requirements/Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for an award, a student must:

- Complete an initial application (one time only).
    - The 2026-27 application was available January 1, 2026 and the deadline is June 30, 2027.
- Be certified by the institution's financial aid officer that STG's waiver is needed to meet tuition expenses.
- Be either:
    - The spouse of a Michigan police officer or fire fighter killed in the line of duty; or
    - The natural or adopted child of a Michigan police officer or fire fighter killed in the line of duty.
        - Have been under the age of 21 at the time of the parent's death.
        - Apply for the first time before age 26.
- File a current year Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
    - A submitted FAFSA is required and does not need to be completed or verified (**unless selected for identity verification**).
- Not be in default on a Federal student loan.
- Be a Michigan resident for 12 months prior to program application.
    - If the applicant is a dependent student, the first contributor's state and date of residency on the FAFSA is used to determine Michigan residency. The applicant's address from the FAFSA and the MiSSG student record is also used to evaluate residency.
- Be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or approved refugee.
- Be a high school graduate or its recognized equivalent.
    - Proof of high school completion is not required.
- Be an undergraduate student.
- Not have a bachelor's degree.
- Be enrolled at least half-time at a participating institution in a program of study leading to a degree or certificate.
- Meet the institution's Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy.

Renewal Requirements

In addition to the initial eligibility requirements, to renew, a student must:

- File a current year Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
    - A submitted FAFSA is required and does not need to be completed or verified (**unless selected for identity verification**).
- Maintain Michigan residency as outlined in the initial eligibility requirements.
- Be an undergraduate student.
- Not have a bachelor's degree.
- Enroll at least half-time at a participating institution in a program of study leading to a degree or certificate.
- Meet the institution's Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy.

Program Award Information

Award maximum is the total tuition for courses applicable toward a certificate or degree in which the applicant is enrolled and is not covered or paid by any other scholarship, trust fund, statutory benefit, or other source of tuition coverage.

Semester/Term Awards

- Fall: Yes
- Winter: Yes
    - Term institutions only.
- Spring: Yes
- Summer: Yes

Reimbursement Requests

Reimbursement requests must be submitted for individual students using the online interface method in MiSSG. To do so, navigate to the Reimbursement Request menu under the Survivor Tuition Grant menu, select a term, and click the Request Reimbursement button. Technical procedures are available in the Aid Administrators MiSSG Manual.

Program Limits

Program eligibility ends when a student has:

- Received a bachelor's degree; or
- Received STG funds in 9 semesters (14 terms); or
- Received STG funds for 124 semester (180 term) credits.

Special Requirements

Institution Requirements

Participating Institutions

An eligible student must attend a:

- Michigan public degree-granting, community college, Tribal college, or public university.

Tuition Incentive Program

Contact

Program Coordinator: Stephanie Dillon, DillonS7@Michigan.gov

Description

A program that encourages Medicaid eligible students to complete high school with the incentive of college tuition. Students are identified annually by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) as having met the Medicaid eligibility requirement.

Application

The FAFSA serves as the application and must be completed by the Federal deadline. Students prior to the high school Class of 2020 were required to complete a separate TIP application by August 31 of their high school graduation year. To check the eligibility status, the student can log into the MiSSG Student Portal at Michigan.gov/MiSSG.

TIP Phases

TIP is divided into two different sub-program phases:

- Phase I: Provides tuition assistance to eligible students enrolled in a certificate or associate degree program.
- Phase II: Provides tuition assistance to eligible students enrolled in a bachelor's degree.

Tuition Incentive Program – Phase I

Phase I Student Requirements/Eligibility

To be eligible for an award, a TIP student must:

- File a current year FAFSA.
    - A submitted FAFSA is required and does not need to be completed or verified (**unless selected for identity verification**).
    - If a student graduated prior to 2020, must have also completed a TIP application by August 31 of graduating year.
- Not be in default on a Federal student loan.
- Be a Michigan resident since July 1 of the previous calendar year.
    - If the applicant is a dependent student, the first contributor's state and date of residency on the FAFSA is used to determine Michigan residency. The applicant's address from the FAFSA and the MiSSG student record is also used to evaluate residency.
- Be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or approved refugee.
- Be enrolled in a qualifying certificate or associate degree program.
- Possess a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent prior to age 20
    - Proof of high school completion is required.
    - Students who attend a State-approved Early/Middle College have until age 21 to complete high school or its recognized equivalent.
    - ***NEW!*** Students who are enrolled in and receive instruction in a special education program or service (at the time of graduation) have until age 26 to complete high school or its recognized equivalent.
- Be enrolled at least half-time, and the student must be pursuing a certificate or associate degree. Half-time is defined as a minimum of six (6) credit hours.
    - TIP will only cover courses toward the student's certificate or degree program.
- Be an undergraduate student.
- Begin using TIP at a participating institution within four years of high school completion.
- Meet the institution's Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy.

Phase I Renewal Requirements

In addition to the initial eligibility requirements, to renew, a student must:

- File a current year Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
    - A submitted FAFSA is required and does not need to be completed or verified (**unless selected for identity verification**).
- Be enrolled at least half-time in a qualifying certificate or associate degree program.
    - TIP will only cover courses toward the student's certificate or degree program.
- Maintain Michigan residency as outlined in the initial eligibility requirements.
- Be an undergraduate student.
- Meet the institution's Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy.

Phase I Program Award Information

Award is tuition-specific and may also include mandatory fees. TIP will only cover courses toward the student's certificate or degree program.

Maximum semester or term awards are based on the number of credits eligible for reimbursement:

- Tuition award: [Number of eligible credits] * [Reimbursement Rate]
- Mandatory fees: semester maximum $450.

Semester/Term Awards

- Fall: Yes
- Winter: Yes
    - Term institutions only.
- Spring: Yes
- Summer: Yes

Eligible Credits

Student must be taking a minimum of six credits within degree program. All credits must apply to certificate or associate degree.

Fee Restrictions

- Reimbursement requests may not be submitted for zero credit hours.
- Institutions are permitted to combine summer modules for TIP reimbursement requests.

Per Public Act 25 of 2026, the tuition rate that may be received for TIP at participating private or independent degree-granting institutions is calculated annually by averaging the standard in-district tuition rates of participating Michigan community colleges. The 2026-27 rate is $138 per credit hour and has been prepopulated in MiSSG.

All other institutions will need to enter their 2026-27 TIP Rates in MiSSG by **September 30, 2026**.

To enter the 2026-27 TIP Rates, please follow these instructions:

- Log into MiSSG.
- Select Tuition Incentive Program from the MiSSG Menu.
- Select School Profile.
- Update.
- Enter credit rate information.
- Save.

TIP Rate by Institution Type

- **Community College/Tribal college**:
    - In-district students:
        - The institution's in-district rate will be used as the rate-per-credit for reimbursement

requests.
    - Out-of-district students:
        - For persons not residing in a community college district, or if the student's chosen program of study is not offered in the resident district community college, the out-of-district rate may be authorized.

- **Public University**:
    - The university's lower-level resident rate will be used as the rate-per-credit for reimbursement requests.
- **Private or Independent Institutions**:
    - For Academic Year 2026-27, the rate of $138 will be used as the rate-per-credit for reimbursement requests.

Phase I Reimbursement Requests

Reimbursement requests may be submitted in MiSSG with an uploaded text file that the institution can create from using the Download Roster File as a base or by other methods such as exporting a text file from the institution's own internal system. The uploaded file must meet the specifications listed in the TIP Upload Reimbursement File Format which is available at Michigan.gov/MiSSG in the 'MiSSG File Formats for College Administrators' section.

Alternatively, reimbursement requests may be submitted for individual students by using the online interface method in MiSSG. To do so, navigate to the TIP Reimbursement Request menu item under the TIP menu, select a term, and click the Reimbursement Roster button.

The most recent institution that submits a reimbursement for a student, prior to payment processing, is where funds will be disbursed to. Technical procedures are available in the Aid Administrators MiSSG Manual.

Note: If a monetary adjustment needs to be made to a previously paid award with no change to credit hours, please contact the Office of Higher Education to perform the adjustment (as School Users do not have access to this feature).

Phase I Program Limits

Program eligibility ends when a student has:

- Not received a TIP reimbursement within four years and one fall semester from high school graduation; or
    - Example: Student who graduates in June 2026 must have initiated by fall of Academic Year 2030-31.
- Eligible students have ten years of benefits after initial payment; or
- Been reimbursed for 80 semester credits or 120 term credits; or
- Received a Phase II reimbursement.
    - A student may not receive a Phase I reimbursement and a Phase II reimbursement in the same semester/term.

Phase I Special Requirements

Institution Requirements

Participating Institutions

An eligible student must attend an institution that participates in Phase I and is a:

- Michigan public degree-granting, community college, Tribal college, or public university; or,
- Michigan private or independent degree-granting, non-profit institution.

Phase I Additional Program Details

Second Associate Degree or Certificate

After completing an associate degree or acceptable certificate, any remaining Phase I credits may be used toward a second certificate or associate degree provided the student has not initiated Phase II benefits.

TIP Phase I and Pell Reporting

Per Public Act 25 of 2026, public universities, community colleges, Tribal colleges, and independent institutions who receive TIP Phase I funds are required to submit data to the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI).

Data must be submitted to CEPI through the Michigan Student Data System within the Student Record and Academic Record Repository (STARR) Collection. Collecting this information in STARR allows CEPI to create reports required for TIP and Pell student outcomes. If a postsecondary institution does not report the data necessary to CEPI by **October 15** via STARR for the prior academic year, **Phase I TIP funds will not be awarded to students at that institution.** The Institution of Higher Education (IHE) Web page has information and supporting documents regarding the STARR collection requirements and process.

Note: STARR Reporting Guidance for Independent Institutions.

Tuition Incentive Program – Phase II

Phase II Student Requirements/Eligibility

To be eligible for an award, a student must:

- Students become Phase II eligible when they have completed 56 transferable credits or earned a certificate or associate degree.
- File a current year Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
    - A submitted FAFSA is required and does not need to be completed or verified (**unless selected for identity verification**).
    - If a student graduated prior to 2020, must have also completed a TIP application by August 31 of graduating year.
- Not be in default on a Federal student loan.
- Be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or approved refugee.
- Be a Michigan resident since July 1 of the previous calendar year.
    - If the applicant is a dependent student, the first contributor's state and date of residency on the FAFSA is used to determine Michigan residency. The applicant's address from the FAFSA and the MiSSG student record is also used to evaluate residency.
- Possess a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent prior to age 20.
    - Proof of high school completion is required.
    - Students who attend a State-approved Early/Middle College have until age 21 to complete high school or its recognized equivalent.
    - ***NEW!*** Students who are enrolled in and receive instruction in a special education program or service (at the time of graduation) have until age 26 to complete high school or its recognized equivalent.
- Be enrolled at least half-time in a bachelor's degree program.
- Eligible students must be enrolled at least half-time.
- Be an undergraduate student.
- Meet the institution's Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy.

Phase II Renewal Requirements

In addition to the initial eligibility requirements, to renew, a student must:

- File a current year Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

    - A submitted FAFSA is required and does not need to be completed or verified (**unless selected for identity verification**).
- Be enrolled at least half-time in a qualifying certificate bachelor's degree program.
    - TIP will only cover courses toward the student's certificate or degree program.
- Maintain Michigan residency as outlined in the initial eligibility requirements.
- Be an undergraduate student.
- Meet the institution's Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy.

Phase II Program Award Information

Phase II provides standard in-district tuition and mandatory fee assistance not to exceed $500 per semester or $400 per term up to a maximum of $2,000 for credits earned in a four-year program at a Michigan degree-granting college or university.

Semester/Term Awards

- Fall: Yes
- Winter: Yes
    - Term institutions only.
- Spring: Yes
- Summer: Yes

Eligible Credits

Students must be taking a minimum of six credits within degree program. All credits must apply to bachelor's degree program.

Fee Restrictions

- Reimbursement requests may not be submitted for zero credit hours.
- Institutions are permitted to combine summer modules for TIP reimbursement requests.

Phase II Reimbursement Requests

Reimbursement requests may be submitted in MiSSG with an uploaded text file that the institution can create from using the Download Roster File as a base or by other methods such as exporting a text file from the institution's own internal system. The uploaded file must meet the specifications listed in the TIP Upload Reimbursement File Format which is available at Michigan.gov/MiSSG in the 'MiSSG File Formats for College Administrators' section.

Alternatively, reimbursement requests may be submitted for individual students by using the online interface method in MiSSG. To do so, navigate to the TIP Reimbursement Request menu item under the TIP menu, select a term, and click the Reimbursement Roster button.

The most recent institution that submits a reimbursement for a student, prior to payment processing, is where funds will be disbursed to. Technical procedures are available in the Aid Administrators MiSSG Manual.

Note: If a monetary adjustment needs to be made to a previously paid award with no change to credit hours, please contact the Office of Higher Education to perform the adjustment (as School Users do not have access to this feature).

Phase II Program Limits

Program eligibility ends when a student has:

- Not received a TIP reimbursement within four years and one fall semester from high school graduation; or
    - Example: Student who graduates in June 2026 must have initiated by fall of Academic Year 2030-31.
- Eligible students have ten years of benefits after initial payment; or

- Received a Phase II cumulative lifetime award of $2,000; or
- Received a bachelor's degree; or
- Had 30 months elapse since becoming Phase II eligible.
    - The 30-month calculation is based on the end date of the semester or term when the 56 transferable credits, certificate, or associate degree were completed. For TIP Phase I, students can earn up to 80 semester credits or 120 term credits, and the end date of the semester or term when these credits were earned can also be used to determine the 30-month period.

Note: A student may not receive a Phase II reimbursement and a Phase I reimbursement in the same semester/term.

Phase II Special Requirements

Institution Requirements

Participating Institutions

An eligible student must attend an institution that participates in Phase II and is a:

- Michigan public degree-granting, community college, Tribal college, or public university; or,
- Michigan private or independent degree-granting, non-profit institution.

Chapter V – Packaging

Standard Packaging Order

Aid restricted to tuition and/or fees must be used before applying funds from State financial aid programs. Institutions will ensure all known aid is applied first. All State financial aid awards must fit within the student's Cost of Attendance (COA).

1. **Aid restricted to tuition and mandatory fees: This includes Federal, State, local/outside (including Kalamazoo Promise), or institutional aid in the form of grants, scholarships, discounts, tuition waivers (including Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver).**
2. **Police Officer's and Firefighter's Survivor Tuition Grant (STG)**
3. **Children of Veterans Tuition Grant (CVTG)**
4. **Michigan Competitive Scholarship (MCS)**
   - MCS is only available to students who have graduated high school (or its equivalent) prior to 2023.
5. **Michigan Tuition Grant (MTG)**
   - MTG is only available to students who initiated a MCS or MTG award (receive a paid award) in Academic Year 2023-24 or prior.
6. **Futures for Frontliners (F4F)**
   - Federal Pell Grant has the first priority in packaging order.
7. **Tuition Incentive Program (TIP)**
8. **Michigan Reconnect (Reconnect)/Michigan Reconnect Expansion (Reconnect Expansion)**
   - Federal Pell Grant has the first priority in packaging order.
9. **Fostering Futures Scholarship (FFS)**
   - Students may receive up to $1,000 of the semester award for tuition and fees, **and** books and supplies.
   - The tuition and fees portion is based on actual tuition and mandatory fees charged to the student.
   - The books and supplies portion is based on the amount defined by the student's COA and can be applied toward direct or indirect costs.
   - Students may receive up to $1,500 of the semester award for non-tuition-specific expenses and may not exceed the student's Cost of Attendance.
10. **Michigan Future Educator Fellowship (MI Fellowship)**
11. **Federal Pell Grant**
12. **Promise Zone Scholarship**
    - Awards restricted to tuition and mandatory fees only.
13. **Michigan Achievement Scholarship Minimum Award**
    - Students are eligible for Michigan Achievement Minimum Award at four-year public and private colleges or universities or baccalaureate degree programs at a Michigan community college.
14. **Michigan Achievement Last-Dollar Award**
    - Students are eligible for Michigan Achievement Last-Dollar Award at four-year public and private colleges or universities or baccalaureate degree programs at a Michigan community college.
15. **Community College Guarantee Last-Dollar Award**
    - The Community College Guarantee Last-dollar amount may never exceed the student's actual in-district tuition, contact hours and mandatory fees.
16. **Michigan Achievement Bonus**
    - Students are eligible for Michigan Achievement Bonus at a Michigan community college if they are eligible for a Federal Pell Grant.

Non-Tuition Restricted Awards

CLARIFIED! The following non-tuition restricted awards may be excluded from the calculation of tuition-

specific State financial aid programs.

Note: All State financial aid awards must fit within the student's Cost of Attendance (COA).

- Student Loans
- Work study
- Qualified withdrawals from an education savings account
- Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG)
- Foundation, institutional, and/or private scholarships
- Michigan Education Trust (MET)
- Promise Zones (only those that are **NOT** restricted to tuition and mandatory fees) See Promise Zone section for further details.
- WIOA funds

*MI GEAR UP is non-tuition-specific and may not exceed the student's Cost of Attendance.

Institutional Free Tuition/Fee Guarantee/Pledge Programs

Institutional grants or scholarships that are not designated as restricted to tuition and mandatory fees, but were used to determine the amount covered by your pledge, promise or guarantee, may be excluded from State financial aid calculations.

Additionally, if your institution does not restrict your pledge, promise, or guarantee to tuition and mandatory fees, it does not need to be included as an award in the State financial aid calculations.

Promise Zones

Most Promise Zones cover the cost of tuition and fees for students attending a designated college or university. Some also provide additional support for expenses such as books and supplies, while others offer a fixed dollar amount toward a degree. Please review the list of Promise Zones and assess aid eligibility based on the information available from each Promise Zone.

Baldwin Promise Zone
Battle Creek Legacy Scholars
Benton Harbor Promise
Detroit Promise Zone
Flint Promise Zone
Hazel Park Promise Zone
Grand Rapids Promise Zone
Lansing Promise Zone Authority
Mason County Promise
Muskegon Area Promise
Newaygo County Area Promise Zone Authority
Pontiac Promise Zone
Saginaw Promise

Additional Packaging Guidance

- Packaging Scenarios are available in Appendix II.
- The MI Future Educator Stipend is not to be included in the student's financial aid package.
- MET Contracts
    - If a student has a MET contract, MET should be applied after any State financial aid program. The institution should then bill MET for all the credit hours in which a student is enrolled. Any excess amount can be applied toward room and board or refunded to the student by the institution.
- Veterans' Benefits and State Financial Aid Programs
    - Veterans' education benefits are excluded from the financial aid packaging order.
        - This policy applies to all State financial aid programs, including Michigan Reconnect/Expansion.

- For information on the Michigan National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program (MINGSTAP) contact the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs at 517-481-7640 or MingstaP@Michigan.gov.

Chapter VI - MiSSG Data Management System

Overview of MiSSG for College Administrators

MiSSG provides students, high school counselors, college financial aid personnel, and eligible training providers access to records, applications, and information from the Office of Higher Education.

MiSSG allows financial aid professionals, referred to as School Users, to work with student records to:

- Clear errors
- Run reports
- Verify student eligibility
- Transfer student records

Perform awarding tasks, such as:

- Certification
- Requesting reimbursement
- Award adjustments

MiSSG also tracks and posts payments from the Office of Higher Education to postsecondary institutions and eligible training providers.

How to Access MiSSG as a School User

Annually an aid director must complete and submit the College Security Access Form before any user accounts will be created for personnel at that institution. Each user at the institution will need to have a security level assigned for each program which will determine which features inside MiSSG are available.

'View-Only' Users

- Send MiSSG emails
- View award program data
- View school profile
- View school transactions, history, and payments
- View student records, transactions, and payments
- View institution eligibility rosters

'Update' Users

- View and perform everything that 'View-Only' users can
- Update school profile, contact information, and records
- Add comments
- Clear ineligibility reasons from student records (such as citizenship, residency, etc.)
- Certify student enrollment and award amounts
- Request reimbursements
- Receive payment emails
- Request award reinstatement

'Administrator' Users

- View and perform everything that 'View Only' and 'Update' users can
- Make award payment adjustments
- Edit the institution's annual budget
- Transfer student records

Login information will be emailed to new users shortly after the form is processed by the Office of Higher Education.

To maintain MiSSG access, the aid director must complete and submit a new College Security Access Form each academic year.

MiSSG User Guide

The MiSSG College Aid Administrator Portal is the School User's way to access data about the students at their institution. For detailed instructional manuals, please refer the MiSSG Technical Reference Manuals.

Program Lead Contact Information in MiSSG

In an effort to have the most up-to-date contact information for lead contacts processing State financial aid programs at your institution, please review and update your institution's School Profile in MiSSG.

- Log into MiSSG.
- Select a State Financial Aid Program from the MiSSG Menu.
- Select School Profile.
- Update.
- Review and update contact information.
- Save.
- Repeat for all State Financial Aid Programs in the MiSSG Menu.

Which Student Records Can Be Viewed?

School Users may only access student records that have been assigned to their institution or have had a payment associated with an award at their institution. Student records are primarily assigned based on which Michigan institution occupied the **first institution** position on the FAFSA. Students may also transfer their institution in the MiSSG Student Portal, see instructions for students.

Summary Page

Institutions may view students' State financial aid Summary data if the student added their school code to the FAFSA. Under Quick View, choose Summary Data, which will display the student's ISIR transaction number, SAI, dependency status, and award information. We encourage institutions to utilize this tool and provide students with instructions on transferring their record to the institution of their choosing.

Transferring Institutions in MiSSG

The preferred method to transfer a student record is via the student utilizing their MiSSG Student Portal account. Students who need to transfer their MiSSG record to a different institution can either update it in their MiSSG Student Portal or call 888-447-2687 for assistance.

The Office of Higher Education has created instructions for students to assist in the transfer process. The Office of Higher Education is continuing to communicate to encourage students and parents to make sure the institution they are planning to attend is listed first on their FAFSA.

Institutions may transfer students in MiSSG in bulk or by individual student record. School Users with MiSSG Administrator 1 level access are able to complete this process.

- The Office of Higher Education encourages School Users to watch the Bulk Student Transfer Process training video and review instructions to complete a bulk student transfer in MiSSG.
- Review instructions for individual student transfers in MiSSG.

Only the Office of Higher Education can initiate a semester/term transfer for a student if an award is in a 'Ready to Pay' or 'Paid' status in the same term.

Clear Ineligible Reasons

MiSSG School Users should be accessing MiSSG to review the "Clear Ineligible Reasons" and to update ineligible student records, if applicable. The "Clear Ineligible Reasons" can be located in the MiSSG menu for the following programs:

- Children of Veterans Tuition Grant
- Fostering Futures Scholarship
- Futures for Frontliners/Path 2
- MI Future Educator Fellowship
- MI Future Educator Stipend
- MI GEAR UP Scholarship
- Michigan Achievement Scholarship
- Michigan Competitive Scholarship

- Michigan Reconnect Scholarship/Expansion
- Michigan Tuition Grant
- Survivor Tuition Grant
- Tuition Incentive Program

Personally Identifiable Information and Data Security

"Personally Identifiable Information (PII)" shall refer to any data elements that could potentially identify a student, parent, or employee, and includes name, address, a personal identifier, such as Social Security number, date of birth, place of birth, etc. as defined in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

When accessing MiSSG, School Users understand that MiSSG data, information, and reports are confidential and should be handled as such. When communicating with the Office of Higher Education staff regarding students, School Users understand that precautions should be taken to protect PII. This includes the use of MISSG Student Identifiers (MiSSG ID) in the place of Social Security numbers and date of birth.

As a MiSSG user, School Users agree to take appropriate administrative, technical, and physical safeguards to protect the data from any unauthorized use or access. School Users agree to abide by all State and Federal regulations, including FERPA and will ensure that PII will be transmitted through secure methods only. Data must be encrypted during any transmissions. School Users agree to protect the data and information according to acceptable standards and no less rigorously than their institutions own confidential information. Identifiable level data will not be reported or made public. School Users shall report to the Director of Office of Higher Education immediately, if a School User becomes aware of any use or disclosure of the confidential information in MiSSG in violation of any applicable laws.

Unusual Student Records

Reporting Suspected Fraudulent Activity

If an institution suspects that a student record is involved in or is the result of suspected fraudulent activity, the institution should follow their internal policies and, as required by Federal Student Aid (2026-27 Federal Student Aid Handbook, Chapter 5 and the Higher Education Act of 1965), report any suspicions and supporting documentation to the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Inspector General.

In all suspected cases, institutions are strongly encouraged to consult with their legal counsel to ensure that all actions taken are in compliance with applicable laws and institutional policies. Legal counsel can help assess the severity of the issue, protect student privacy, and guide appropriate reporting and communication.

If an institution suspects that a student or other individual has misreported information or altered documentation to fraudulently obtain State financial aid programs through MiSSG, the institution must also notify the Office of Higher Education at MiStudentAid@Michigan.gov. This notification should include:

- A brief summary of the suspected fraudulent activity,
- The MiSSG ID of the impacted student record(s),
- A list of any State financial aid programs for which the student(s) may be eligible,
- A status update on the institution's ongoing investigation.

Upon receipt of this information, the Office of Higher Education will place an Administrative Override on the MiSSG record(s). This will make the student(s) temporarily ineligible for all State financial aid programs while the investigation is in progress.

Resolution and Follow-Up

Once the institution completes its review, it must notify the Office of Higher Education of the findings at MiStudentAid@Michigan.gov. Based on the outcome:

- If no fraudulent activity is confirmed, eligibility for State financial aid will be reinstated and the Administrative Override will be removed.
- If fraud is confirmed, the student(s) will be permanently ineligible for all State financial aid. In such cases, any State financial aid disbursed for both the current and any prior academic years must be returned.

Institutions are expected to follow up with the Office of Higher Education in a timely manner once a resolution is reached, and ensure all relevant documentation is retained per institutional policy.

Students Impacted by Identity Theft

If a student reports to the institution that they suspect they've been impacted by identity theft, the institution should encourage the student to contact IdentityTheft.gov for assistance and next steps.

Chapter VII – Payments

Overview of Payments

All payments are made to the institution on behalf of the students. Payments are made through the State's Statewide Integrated Governmental Management Applications (SIGMA) system and are processed via electronic funds transfer (EFT).

For information on how to become a vendor, visit the State of Michigan SIGMA Vendor Self Service (VSS).

The Office of Higher Education provides an annual certification and payment schedule indicating due dates for all programs.

Review the Office of Higher Education Payment Schedule.

- ***NEW!*** Payments are disbursed on a quarterly basis for most programs. Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship and MI Stipend are processed monthly.
- Payments are made only for students enrolled in the current academic year. Payments should be credited to the student's account unless the student has already satisfied financial obligations to the institution; in such cases, all or part of the award may be paid directly to the student.
- Payments are only made for the current academic year.
    - Prior-year billings will not beprocessed.

Award Inclusion in Payment Files

To have an award included in a payment file, the award must be certified or have a request for reimbursement submitted prior to the payment file being created.

Quarterly Payments

Quarterly payment files are created based on the net unpaid amounts of certified awards or requested reimbursements since the previous quarterly payment.

Quarterly payments include the following programs:

- Children of Veterans Tuition Grant
- Fostering Futures Scholarship
- Futures for Frontliners
- Michigan Achievement Scholarship
- Michigan Competitive Scholarship
- ***NEW!*** MI Future Educator Fellowship
- MI GEAR UP Scholarship
- Michigan Reconnect Scholarship
- Michigan Reconnect Expansion
- Michigan Tuition Grant
- ***NEW!*** Nonpublic Dual Enrollment
- Police Officer's and Fire Fighter's Survivor Tuition Grant
- Tuition Incentive Program

Aggregate Payments

Quarterly payment files are created based on a percentage of all institution's total certified award amount for the academic year.

MCS and MTG are the only State financial aid programs that use this type of payment.

Calculating Quarterly Percentages

An institution will receive a payment for all certified awards, not to exceed the quarterly allotment. Once the quarterly payment has been issued to an institution, the student's record will reflect as paid in MiSSG. On the 4th quarter payment date, all remaining funds will be issued.

Quarterly allotments are a percentage of the overall State appropriation:

- Quarter 1: 50%
- Quarter 2: 30%
- Quarter 3: 10%
- Quarter 4: 10%

Monthly Payments

Monthly payments include the following programs:

- ***NEW!*** MI Future Educator Stipend
- Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship

Methods of Certifying Awards and Requesting Reimbursements in MiSSG

The two methods of certifying awards or requesting reimbursements in MiSSG are uploading a file to process awards in a batch or using the online interface to process awards individually.

Method	Pros	Cons
Upload File	• Able to process many students in a batch with a single file. • Can have the file generated and exported from the institution's internal data system.	• Requires more technical proficiency to use successfully than the online interface method. • Overcoming file line errors can be frustrating to some users.
Online Interface	• Able to quickly process a single student. • Errors can be corrected in real time. • Easier to use.	• Is much slower to process many students compared to the upload file method. • Manual process.

Note: The online interface is the only way to submit reimbursement requests for CVTG, FFS, and STG.

Download Roster File Availability

Downloadable rosters for F4F, MCS, MI Fellowship, MI Stipend, MTG, Reconnect, and TIP will become available for all applicable terms at the beginning of the academic year. The files will contain only students who MiSSG believes meet the requirements of the award program at the School User's institution.

F4F, MCS, Michigan Achievement Scholarship, MI Fellowship, MI Stipend, MTG, Reconnect, Reconnect Expansion, and TIP are the only programs with download files. All others use the online interface.

If you use a download file, you should use the most current file as MiSSG is real-time and as students certify or transfer institutions, your list will update automatically.

The most recent institution that submits a reimbursement or certification for a student, prior to payment processing, is where funds will be disbursed to.

Withdraws and Enrollment Changes

Institutions may keep program funds if costs were incurred; unused funds must be refunded to the Office of Higher Education via MiSSG.

In the event of a complete tuition and fee refund, where a student's courses are stricken from their transcript, the institution is responsible for internally documenting their enrollment prior to the appeal processing to ensure compliance in the case of a future audit or question regarding the account. Institutions should add a comment to the student's MiSSG account documenting the situation.

For State financial aid programs where a non-tuition and fee component is available such as Michigan

Achievement Minimum and Last-dollar awards, the student can retain the award so long as no amount of the award after the appeal is processed will be refunded to the student.

Example 1: A student incurred housing charges that are not refunded during the tuition and fee refund process, Michigan Achievement Scholarship Minimum and Last-dollar awards or Michigan Achievement Bonus awards could apply toward those charges. Tuition specific aid, such as MI Fellowship, must be adjusted and returned.

Example 2: A student withdrew from a course and incurred charges for the course. The course which the student incurred charges for may be counted toward their required enrollment status and may receive State financial aid.

Example 3: A student dropped from a course prior to the add/drop date; therefore, making them less than the required enrollment status. They incurred no charges for the courses dropped. The student would not receive State financial aid.

Example 4: A student was subject to Return of Title IV Funds resulting in changes to their financial aid package. In this instance, an institution may perform a recalculation of the students Michigan Achievement Scholarships awards based on their new aid package. No amount of the award after the Return to Title IV should be refunded to the student.

Note: For the MI Future Educator Stipend, a student teacher may retain their payment if the student teacher has received the funds, even if they show no enrollment or they have completely dropped out of the student teaching experience. If the student teacher has not yet received their Stipend funds and they withdraw or drop from their student teacher experience, the institution is required to return the funds in full to the State of Michigan.

Refunds

Institutions should never send refunds or other return funds to the Office of Higher Education without first having specifically received a billing notice, except Dual Enrollment and MI Future Educator Stipend. For most State financial aid programs, any differences in total amounts awarded and paid are designed to net out naturally over the course of the payments within the academic year.

The MI Future Educator Stipend does not net out. Anytime a MI Future Educator Stipend requires a reduction, institutions will need to use the program specific Office of Higher Education Refund Worksheet and remit payment via a paper check.

Times when institutions will receive a billing notice:

- After the final payment for the academic year has been processed and your institution was overpaid.
- As a result of a program review finding or internal audit.

Note: If your institution is required to submit a refund, please utilize the Office of Higher Education Refund Worksheet(s) available on our Web site.

Unclaimed Awards

Institutions should follow their institutional policy and ensure all measures are taken to notify a student when a refund for their in-direct costs is issued. If an institution is unable to issue a refund check to a student for their in-direct costs due to lack of response from the student, funds must be returned to the Office of Higher Education.

Year-end Balancing

All State Financial Aid Programs

All institutions must balance expenditures for State financial aid programs following the final payment for the academic year. Institutions must issue any refunds owed to the Office of Higher Education no later than September 10, 2027 and complete the Office of Higher Education Refund Worksheet.

Chapter VIII - Program Reviews, Appeals, and Disclaimers

Program Reviews

All institutions are subject to a program review by the State. The scope of a program review is typically one prior academic year at a time. The purpose of the review is to examine compliance with program regulations, identify problems, answer questions relative to reporting requirements, and to offer assistance regarding policies and procedures that will enhance the administration of the State financial aid programs.

When your institution is selected for a program review, an Office of Higher Education representative will contact you to arrange dates for the review. The reviewer will conduct an offsite review, which requires copies of institutional records to be uploaded to MiSSG via Document Management for each student aid recipient selected in the program sample. During an active program, the Office of Higher Education will use MiProgramReview@Michigan.gov to communicate with institutions.

Note: High school graduation completion information may be confirmed in the Student Information section of MiSSG. If the 'HS Grad Confirmed by CEPI' indicates "Yes," this can be used as documentation for a program review. If the status is "No" or blank, the institution must provide proof of high school completion. The 'HS Grad Confirmed by CEPI' information can also be found on the 'Eligible Students Report' and 'Information Roster.'

Record Retention

The Office of Higher Education follows the same guidelines as Federal retention requirements; all institutions are required to keep records for three academic years after the student is no longer enrolled at your institution. Please refer to the current 2025-26 Federal Student Aid Handbook, Volume 2, Chapter 7: Record Keeping, Privacy, and Electronic Processes for more information.

Appeals to The Office of Higher Education and Executive Decisions

Appeals can be submitted and will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Students can submit their inquiries via email to MiStudentAid@Michigan.gov or in writing to:

Diann Cosme, Student Aid and Access Director
Office of Higher Education
Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential
P.O. Box 30462
Lansing, MI 48909

Disclaimers and Disqualifications

The information in this document was compiled by the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential – Office of Higher Education. The Office of Higher Education retains the right to change any information and policies contained in this manual.

All programs are subject to approved and available funding.

Individuals with disabilities may contact the MiLEAP ADA Coordinator to request an alternative format to these materials. Please visit www.Michigan.gov/ADA for a list of state ADA Coordinators.

The Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential is not affiliated with National Merit Scholarship Corporation or its registered trademarks National Achievement®, Achievement Scholarship®, or Achievement Scholar®.

Appendix I - Glossary

Audited Course

NEW! The student does not earn credit or receive a grade for the course. Audited courses are not eligible for State financial aid programs.

Certificate of Completion

A non-academic credential that is given to a student who has met the requirements of an alternative curriculum approved by the school district.

Students with a certificate of completion are eligible for State financial aid programs; however, are not eligible for Federal financial aid programs.

Certificate Program

An acceptable certificate program must be a minimum of 24 semester credits (or 36 term credits) and at least 30 weeks of instructional time within a 12-month consecutive period.

NEW! *An acceptable certificate program must be a minimum of 24 semester credits (or 36 term credits) or the clock-hour equivalent* ***and*** *at least 30 weeks of instructional time (or 26 weeks if the program is offered in clock hours) within a 12-month consecutive period.*

Check Counts

Check count is the method used to monitor MCS and MTG usage within MiSSG. Each student will have a starting pool of 60 check counts and may not receive another MCS or MTG award once this pool is exhausted.

Each MCS/MTG award will reduce a student's remaining check count by:

- 6 check counts for an award at full-time enrollment; or
- 4.5 check counts for an award at three-quarter-time enrollment; or
- 3 check counts for an award at half-time enrollment.

Students with limited check counts remaining in their final semester will still receive a full award based on their award status.

Contact Hours

F4F, Michigan Achievement Scholarship, MCS, MTG, and Reconnect may award based on contact hours, sometimes referred to as billable hours, are charges to students toward practical application in their course work.

Contributor

A contributor is anyone required to provide a signature on the form as well as consent and approval to have their Federal tax information transferred directly from the IRS into the *FAFSA* form. This may include the student, a student's spouse, a biological or adoptive parent, or a parent's spouse or partner. For State financial aid, if the applicant is a dependent student, the ***first*** contributor's state and date of residency on the FAFSA is used to determine Michigan residency. The applicant's address from the FAFSA and the MiSSG student record is also used to evaluate residency.

Completed FAFSA

The FAFSA must be submitted, completed, and verified (if required) for the following programs:

- Fostering Futures Scholarship
- Michigan Achievement Scholarship/Community College Guarantee
- Michigan Competitive Scholarship
- Michigan Tuition Grant

Credit Hours

State financial aid programs may only award based on credit hours; not contact or billable hours with the exception of F4F, Michigan Achievement Scholarship, MCS, MTG, and Reconnect. The Office of Higher Education adheres to the Federal definition of "credit hour" as defined in the Federal Student Aid Handbook Glossary.

"A credit hour is an amount of work that reasonably approximates not less than:

- *One hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class work each week for approximately 15 weeks for one semester or trimester hour of credit, or 10 to 12 weeks for one quarter hour of credit, or at least the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time; or*
- *At least an equivalent amount of work as required in paragraph (1) of this definition for other academic activities as established by the institution including laboratory work, internships, practica, studio work, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours."*

Cumulative Lifetime Award

The combined total of all a student's paid awards from a single State financial aid program across all academic years.

Enrollment Status

- Full-time: 12 credits or more
    - For Michigan Achievement Scholarship, MI Fellowship, and MI Stipend full-time enrollment is defined by the institution.
- Three-quarter-time: 9-11 credits
- Half-time: 6-8 credits
- Less-than-half-time: 5 credits or less

Failed Courses

Any course that the student has taken, received a State financial aid award, but did not achieve a passing grade.

Grow Your Own

CLARIFIED! Grow Your Own (GYO) grant funds are distributed by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) to school districts to support tuition, training*, books, transportation, and other costs for staff members pursuing teacher certification or other educator development. Districts may choose to either disburse funds directly to the staff member or send funds directly to their partnering educator development providers.

To receive GYO grant funds, districts must document that staff have pledged to serve in the district for a duration equal to the period funded by the grant. Districts are required to report participating staff data to MDE at the end of the grant performance period.

Before districts may expend any funds with Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) for those staff members pursuing initial certification or additional endorsements, districts and EPPs must submit co-signed agreements to MDE detailing how they will collaborate to support GYO candidates. These agreements must include specifics on tuition, coursework, and testing support.

It is the responsibility of the Educator Preparation Program to share Grow Your Own recipient data with the institution's financial aid office. This ensures students are not awarded both Grow Your Own funding and MI Future Educator Fellowship or Stipend funds simultaneously.

Note: *Training funded by Educator Workforce Innovation Programs and Educator Development and Retention Programs.

Mandatory Fees

Mandatory fees must be fees specified in the institution's course catalog as a condition of enrollment and/or required for the student's completion of an eligible certificate or degree (such as online fees

and lab fees required for course enrollment). Allowable fees covered by State financial aid programs must not include any fees that a student or students may opt-out of.

Official Transcript

A transcript received and processed following the official transcript policy of the receiving institution. For the purpose of State financial aid programs, the transcript must also include a date indicating completion or graduation.

Required Fees

Required fees are included in the MI Future Educator Fellowship award calculation. Required fees are any fees that a student must pay in order to complete their Educator Preparation Program.

Recognized Equivalent

In compliance with Public Act 249 of 2016, the State of Michigan, Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity recognizes the following high school equivalency tests as options for individuals to earn a high school equivalency credential:

- General Equivalency Diploma (GED)
- High School Equivalency Test (HiSET)
- Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC)

The High School Completion Substitution Form may be used by the institution for MCS and MTG students who have not met the high school completion requirement.

Remedial Course

A course that prepares a student for study at the postsecondary level.

- Cannot be below the educational level needed for a student to successfully pursue their program after one year in that course.
- Must be at least at the high school level.
- Further information can be found on the Federal Web site.

Submitted FAFSA

The FAFSA must be submitted. It does not have to be completed or verified (except identity verification) to qualify for these programs:

- Children of Veterans Tuition Grant
- Futures for Frontliners
- MI Future Educator Fellowship
- MI GEAR UP Scholarship
- Michigan Reconnect
- Michigan Reconnect Expansion
- Police Officer's and Fire Fighter's Survivor Tuition Grant
- Tuition Incentive Program

Trailer

Summer semester/term is considered a "trailer" semester (the end of the school year) for all State financial aid programs.

Tuition-specific

Aid that may only be applied to tuition costs and mandatory fees.

Appendix II – Packaging Scenarios

Michigan Achievement Scholarship Community College Guarantee, Tuition Incentive Program, and Federal Pell Grant

In-District Example (Fall and Winter/Spring):

Types of Costs	Amount
COA	$15,000
In-district Tuition and Fees Total *	$5,000
Tuition Incentive Program	$3,500
Federal Pell Grant	$1,000
Community College Guarantee Last-dollar payment amount	$500
Michigan Achievement Bonus	$1,000

A student has a Cost of Attendance (COA) of $15,000 and is eligible for the Tuition Incentive Program (TIP), Community College Guarantee Last-dollar, and $1,000 Michigan Achievement Bonus.

Their tuition, contact hours, and mandatory fees total is $5,000. They received $1,000 Federal Pell Grant (Pell) and TIP has been calculated at $3,500 for the Fall and Winter/Spring terms.

In this scenario, first TIP would be calculated:

- $2,550 + $950 mandatory fees = $3,500

Next, the Community College Guarantee Last-dollar Award would be calculated:

- $5,000 (Tuition and Fees) - $3,500 (TIP) - $1,000 (Pell) = $500. Because there is Tuition and Fee remaining, the student would be awarded $500 in Community College Guarantee Last-dollar Award.

Next, the Michigan Achievement Bonus would be calculated:

- $15,000 (COA) - $3,500 (TIP) - $1,000 (Pell) - $500 (Community College Guarantee Last-Dollar) = $10,000. Because there is still room remaining, the student would be awarded the full Michigan Achievement Bonus award of $1,000.

* The Community College Guarantee Last-dollar amount may never exceed the student's actual In-district tuition, contact hours and mandatory fees.

Michigan Achievement Scholarship Community College Guarantee and Federal Pell Grant

Out-of-District Example (Fall):

Types of Costs	Amount
COA	$15,000
In-district Tuition and Fees Total *	$1,800
Actual cost (Tuition plus mandatory fees)	$3,105
Federal Pell Grant	$400
Community College Guarantee Last-dollar payment amount	$2,505
Michigan Achievement Bonus	$500

A student has a Cost of Attendance (COA) of $15,000 and is eligible for the Community College Guarantee Last-dollar and $500 Michigan Achievement Bonus for the semester as well as $400 in Pell.

They are attending an institution 'out-of-district.' Their in-district tuition is $1,800 and out-of-district tuition is $2,400.

In this scenario, first the Community College Guarantee Last-dollar Award **limit** would be calculated:

- $1,800 (In-district Tuition) + $705 (Mandatory fees) = $2,505

Then their actual cost would be calculated:

- $2,400 (Out-of-district tuition) + $705 (Mandatory fees) = $3,105.

Next, the Community College Guarantee Last-dollar Award would be calculated. The Last-dollar award must never exceed the Last-dollar Award **limit**:

- $3,105 (Actual cost) - $400 (Pell)= $2,705. Because the Last-dollar award exceeds the Last-Dollar award **limit** the student may be awarded $2,505. The student has a remaining $200 balance.

Finally, the Michigan Achievement Scholarship Bonus award is calculated.

- $15,000 (COA) - $400 (Pell) - $2,505 (Community College Guarantee Last-Dollar) = $12,095. Because there is still room remaining, the student would be awarded the full Michigan Achievement Bonus award of $500.

* The Community College Guarantee Last-dollar amount may never exceed the student's actual In-district tuition, contact hours and mandatory fees.

Michigan Achievement Scholarship Community College Guarantee and Federal Pell Grant Consortium Agreement (Host School: Community College/Tribal College)

In-District Example (Fall):

Types of Costs	**Amount**
COA	$10,000
In-district Tuition and Fees Total *	$2,200
Federal Pell Grant	$1,000
Community College Guarantee Last-dollar payment amount	$1,200
Michigan Achievement Bonus	$500
In-District Tuition Rate per Credit	$125
Mandatory Fees for 6 Credits	$350

A student has a Cost of Attendance (COA) of $10,000 and is eligible for the Community College Guarantee Last-dollar and $500 Michigan Achievement Bonus.

They are in a consortium agreement where the Community College is their host institution. Their in-district tuition, contact hours, and mandatory fees (6 credit hours) at the Community College total $1,100. The student is also enrolled in 6 credit hours at their consortium school. They received $1,000 Federal Pell Grant (Pell).

First, the allowable amount of tuition and fees at the consortium school would be calculated. The In-district rate for the home institution will be used, because it is the lesser of the two tuition rates.

- 6 (Credit hours) x $125 (In-district Rate) = $750
- $750 (Tuition) + $350 (Mandatory Fees) = $1,100 (Tuition & Fees for Consortium Credits)

The Community College Guarantee Last-dollar maximum will be:

- $1,100 (Tuition & Fees for Consortium Credits) +$1,100 (Tuition & Fees for Home Institution) = $2,200 (Total Tuition & Fees).

Next, the Community College Last-dollar amount will be calculated:

- $2,200 (Tuition and Fees) - $1,000 (Pell) = $1,200. Because there is Tuition and Fee remaining, the student would be awarded $1,200 in Community College Guarantee Last-dollar.

Next, the Michigan Achievement Bonus would be calculated:

- $10,000 (COA) - $1,000 (Pell) - $1,200 (Community College Guarantee Last-Dollar) = $7,800. Because there is still room remaining, the student would be awarded the full Michigan Achievement Bonus award of $500.

* The Community College Guarantee Last-dollar amount may never exceed the student's actual In-district tuition, contact hours and mandatory fees.

Michigan Achievement Scholarship Public and Private Four-year Colleges or Universities, or Baccalaureate Degree Program at a Michigan Community College and Federal Pell Grant

Example (Fall and Winter/Spring):

Types of Costs	**Amount**
COA	$30,000
Tuition and Fees Total	$15,000
Federal Pell Grant	$7,000
Michigan Achievement Scholarship Minimum Award	$2,500
Michigan Achievement Scholarship Last-dollar Award	$3,000

A student has a Cost of Attendance (COA) of $30,000 and is eligible for a maximum of $2,500 of Michigan Achievement Scholarship Minimum Award and $3,000 Michigan Achievement Scholarship Last-dollar Award.

Their tuition, contact hours, and mandatory fees total is $15,000. They received $7,000 Federal Pell Grant (Pell) for the Fall and Winter/Spring terms.

In this scenario, first the Michigan Achievement Scholarship Minimum Award would be calculated:

- $30,000 (COA) - $7,000 (Pell) = $23,000. Because there is still room remaining, the student would be awarded the full Michigan Achievement Scholarship Minimum Award of $2,500.

Next, the Michigan Achievement Scholarship Last-dollar Award would be calculated:

- $30,000 (COA) - $7,000 (Pell) - $2,500 (Michigan Achievement Scholarship Minimum Award) = $20,500. Because there is still room remaining, the student would be awarded the full Michigan Achievement Scholarship Last-dollar Award of $3,000.

Michigan Achievement Scholarship at Four-Year Institution, Tuition Incentive Program, and Michigan Tuition Grant

Example (Fall and Winter/Spring):

Types of Costs	Amount
COA	$20,000
Tuition Total and Fees	$14,000
Federal Pell Grant	$5,000
Michigan Tuition Grant (MTG)	$3,000
Tuition Incentive Program (TIP)	$1,000
Michigan Achievement Scholarship Minimum Award	$2,500
Michigan Achievement Scholarship Last-dollar Award	$3,000

A student has a Cost of Attendance (COA) of $20,000 and is eligible for a maximum of $2,500 of Michigan Achievement Scholarship Minimum Award and $3,000 Michigan Achievement Scholarship Last-dollar Award. Their tuition, contact hours, and mandatory fees total $14,000. They received $5,000 Federal Pell Grant (Pell), $3,000 in MTG and TIP Phase II can be awarded up to a maximum of $1,000.

In this scenario, first the MTG would be determined.

- $14,000 (Tuition and Fees Total) - $0 (Tuition Specific Aid) = $14,000. Because there is $14,000 in tuition, the student would qualify for $3,000 in MTG.

Next, TIP would be calculated:

- $14,000 (Tuition and Fees Total) - $3,000 (MTG) = $11,000. Because there is $11,000 tuition total remaining after MTG, the student would qualify for $1,000 in TIP Phase II funding.

Then, Michigan Achievement Scholarship Minimum Award would be calculated:

- $20,000 (COA) - $5,000 (Pell) - $3,000 (MTG) - $1,000 (TIP Phase II) = $11,000. Because there is still room remaining, the student would be awarded the full Michigan Achievement Scholarship Minimum Award of $2,500.

Last, the Michigan Achievement Scholarship Last-dollar Award would be calculated:

- $20,000 (COA) - $5,000 (Pell) - $3,000 (MTG) - $1,000 (TIP Phase II) - $2,500 (Minimum) = $8,500. Because there is $8,500 remaining after gift aid, the student would qualify for $3,000 in Michigan Achievement Scholarship Last-dollar Award.

Michigan Achievement Scholarship at Four-Year Institution and MI Future Educator Fellowship

Example (Fall and Winter/Spring):

Types of Costs	Amount
COA	$26,000
Tuition Total and Fees	$13,000
Federal Pell Grant	$7,395
Tuition Incentive Program (TIP) Phase II	$1,000
MI Future Educator Fellowship	$10,000
Michigan Achievement Scholarship Minimum Award	$2,500
Michigan Achievement Last-dollar Award	$3,000
Non-tuition Restricted Institutional Scholarship	$6,500
Non-tuition Restricted Outside Scholarship	$5,000

A student has a Cost of Attendance (COA) of $26,000 and is eligible for the MI Future Educator Fellowship award. Their tuition and mandatory fees total $13,000. They received $7,395 Federal Pell Grant (Pell), TIP Phase II of $1,000, and two non-tuition restricted scholarships totaling $11,500.

In this scenario, first the TIP Phase II award would be determined.

- $13,000 (Tuition and Fees Total) - $0 Tuition Specific Aid = $13,000. Because there is $13,000 in tuition and fees, the student would qualify for $1,000 TIP Phase II funding.

Next, MI Future Educator Fellowship would be calculated.

- $13,000 (Tuition and Fees Total) - $1,000 TIP Phase II (Tuition Specific Aid) = $12,000. Because there is $12,000 in tuition, the student would qualify for $10,000 in MI Fellowship funding.

Next, Michigan Achievement Scholarship Minimum Award would be calculated:

- $26,000 (COA) - $1,000 (TIP Phase II) - $10,000 (Fellowship) - $7,395 (Pell) = $7,605. Because there is still room remaining after gift aid, the student would qualify for $2,500 in Michigan Achievement Scholarship Minimum Award.

Then, Michigan Achievement Scholarship Last-Dollar Award would be calculated:

- $26,000 (COA) - $1,000 (TIP Phase II) - $10,000 (Fellowship) - $7,395 (Pell) - $2,500 (Minimum) = $5,105. Because there is still room remaining, the student would be awarded the full Michigan Achievement Scholarship Last-Dollar Award of $3,000. There is $2,105 remaining COA after all State awards are applied.

The above statements remain accurate until the two non-tuition-specific outside scholarships are factored in. All State financial aid must fit within the student's Cost of Attendance. When the additional $11,500 in aid is included, both tuition and fee charges, as well as the total Cost of Attendance, must be evaluated.

- $11,500 (Non-tuition restricted scholarship) - $2,105 (Remaining COA) = $9,395 (Total reduction of State aid needed)

With this in mind, the Michigan Achievement Scholarship Minimum and Last Dollar awards are zeroed out, and the MI Future Educator Fellowship award is reduced from $10,000 to $6,105:

- $9,395 (Reduction needed) - $2,500 (Minimum) - $3,000 (Last-Dollar) - $3,895 (Fellowship) = $0

Types of Costs	Amount
COA	$26,000
Federal Pell Grant	$7,395
Tuition Incentive Program (TIP) Phase II	$1,000
MI Future Educator Fellowship	~~$10,000~~→$6,105
Michigan Achievement Scholarship Minimum Award	~~$2500~~→$0
Michigan Achievement Last-dollar Award	~~$3000~~ → $ 0
Non-Tuition Restricted Institutional Scholarship	$6,500
Non-Tuition Restricted Outside Scholarship	$5,000

These adjustments keep the student at their maximum Cost of Attendance. Professional Judgment may be used at the discretion of the institution to increase the Cost of Attendance to increase State financial aid eligibility.

Tuition Incentive Program, Michigan Tuition Grant, and Tuition Restricted Scholarship (TRS)

Example (Fall and Winter/Spring):

Types of Costs	Amount
COA	$20,000
Tuition Total and Fees	$14,000
Federal Pell Grant	$5,000
Michigan Tuition Grant (MTG)	$3,000
Tuition Incentive Program (TIP) Phase II	$1,000
Tuition Restricted Institutional Scholarship	$8,000

A student has a Cost of Attendance (COA) of $20,000 and their tuition, contact hours, and mandatory fees total $14,000. They received $5,000 Federal Pell Grant (Pell), $3,000 in MTG, $8,000 in Tuition Restricted Institutional Scholarship, and TIP Phase II can be awarded up to a maximum of $1,000.

In this scenario, first the MTG would be calculated:

- $14,000 (Tuition and Fees Total) - $8,000 (Tuition Restricted Scholarship) = $6,000. Because there is $6,000 in reaming tuition, the student would qualify for $3,000 in MTG.

Finally, TIP would be calculated:

- $14,000 (Tuition and Fees Total) - $8,000 (Tuition Restricted Scholarship) - $3,000 (MTG) = $3,000. Because there is $3,000 tuition total remaining, the student would qualify for $1,000 in TIP Phase II funding.

Reconnect Scholarship with In-district tuition and Federal Pell Grant and no Tuition Restricted Scholarship (TRS)

Example (Fall and Winter/Spring):

Types of Costs	Amount
COA	$7,500
In-district Tuition and Fees Total	$2,805
Federal Pell Grant	$3,248
Tuition Restricted Institutional Scholarship	$0
Reconnect Scholarship	$0

A student is attending an institution 'in-district' with a Cost of Attendance (COA) of $7,500 for the semester, and the student is eligible for Reconnect and Federal Pell Grant (Pell), but no Tuition Restricted Scholarship (TRS)

The student is enrolled in 12 credits for the semester at $175 per credit hour with total mandatory fees of $705 for a total of $2,805.

In-district tuition is $175 X 12 credits = $2,100 + $705 (mandatory fees) = $2,805 (total tuition and fees)

Next, the student's Pell and Tuition Restricted Scholarship amounts must be determined, which in this scenario, the student's Pell grant is $3,248 and the TRS is $0.

Next, the student's Reconnect Scholarship would be calculated:

- $2,805 (total tuition and fees) - $3,248 (Pell Grant) - $0 (TRS) = -$443
- Since Pell covers the entire tuition and fees balance, the Reconnect award would be $0.

Reconnect Scholarship In-district tuition with a Pell Grant and a Tuition Restricted Scholarship (TRS)

Example (Fall and Winter/Spring):

Types of Costs	Amount
COA	$6,500
In-district Tuition and Fees Total	$2,280
Federal Pell Grant	$1,000
Tuition Restricted Scholarship	$1,000
Reconnect Scholarship	$280

A student is attending an institution 'in-district' with a Cost of Attendance (COA) of $6,500 for the semester, and the student is eligible for Reconnect, Pell, and a Tuition Restricted Scholarship (TRS).

The student is enrolled in 9 credits for the semester at $175 per credit hour with total mandatory fees of $705 for a total of $2,280.

- In-district tuition is $175 X 9 credits = $1,575 + $705 (mandatory fees) = $2,280 (total tuition and fees)

Next, the student's Pell Grant and TRS awards must be determined, which in this scenario, the student's Pell grant is $1,000 and the TRS is $1,000.

Next, the student's Reconnect Scholarship would be calculated:

- $2,280 (total tuition and fees) - $1,000 (Pell Grant) - $1,000 (TRS) = $280 (Reconnect)
- Final balance is $0 as Reconnect will cover the remaining $280.

Reconnect Scholarship with In-district tuition with no Pell Grant and no Tuition Restricted Scholarship (TRS)

Example (Fall and Winter/Spring):

Types of Cost	**Amount**
COA	$5,500
In-district Tuition and Fees Total	$1,755
Federal Pell Grant	$0
Tuition Restricted Scholarship	$0
Reconnect Scholarship	$1,775

A student is attending an institution 'in-district' with a Cost of Attendance (COA) of $5,500 for the semester, and the student is eligible for Reconnect, but no Pell and no Tuition Restricted Scholarship (TRS).

The student is enrolled in 6 credits for the semester at $175 per credit hour with total mandatory fees of $705 for a total of $1,755.

- In-district tuition is $175 X 6 credits = $1,050 + $705 (mandatory fees) = $1,755 (total tuition and fees)

Next, the student's Pell Grant and TRS awards must be determined, which in this scenario, the student's Pell grant is $0 and the TRS is $0.

Next, the student's Reconnect Scholarship would be calculated:

- $1,755 (total tuition and fees) - $0 (Pell Grant) - $0 (TRS) = $1,755 (Reconnect)
- Final balance is $0 as Reconnect will cover the total of $1,755.

Reconnect Scholarship with Out-of-District tuition with a Pell Grant and no Tuition Restricted Scholarship (TRS)

Example (Fall and Winter/Spring):

Types of Costs	**Amount**
COA	$8,500
Out-of-district (actual) Tuition and Fees Total	$3,105
In-district Tuition and Fees Total	$2,505
Federal Pell Grant	$400
Tuition Restricted Scholarship	$0
Reconnect Scholarship	$2,505

A student is attending an institution 'out-of-district' with a Cost of Attendance (COA) of $8,500 for the semester, and the student is eligible for Reconnect and Pell, but no TRS.

The student is enrolled in 12 credits for the semester at $200 per credit hour with total mandatory fees of $705 for a total of $3,105. The in-district amount per credit hour for this scenario is $150.

- Out of-district tuition is $200 X 12 credits = $2,400 + 705 (mandatory fees) = $3,105

Next, you must figure out the in-district tuition and fees as the Reconnect award may never exceed what the student's in-district tuition and fees amount would be.

- In-district tuition is $150 X 12 credits = $1,800 + $705 (mandatory fees) = $2,505 (total in-district tuition and fees) is the maximum amount that the Reconnect Scholarship can be in this scenario.

Next, the student's Pell Grant and TRS awards must be determined, which in this scenario, the student's Pell grant is $400 and the TRS is $0.

Next, the student's Reconnect Scholarship would be calculated:

- $3,105 (total tuition and fees) - $400 (Pell Grant) - $0 (TRS) = $2,705. Since this amount is above the maximum Reconnect award figured out above, the maximum of $2,505 would be awarded for Reconnect.
- Final balance is $200 after the Reconnect award: $2,705 (total after Pell) - $2,505 (max Reconnect award) = $200.

Appendix III – State Financial Aid Programs At-a-Glance

The State Financial Aid Programs At-a-Glance Web site serves as a centralized platform for presenting State financial aid information in a clear and accessible manner. The Web site is designed to provide financial aid professionals with an overview of state-supported financial aid opportunities, organized by institution type: community colleges, public universities, and private colleges.

The site includes concise program descriptions outlining eligibility criteria, award amounts, duration of funding, and application requirements. A comparison chart is provided to facilitate side-by-side review of program components across different institution types.

Community College

4-Year Public

4-Year Private