



**OVERVIEW OF HIGHER EDUCATION INFORMATION/RESOURCES FOR CURRENT AND FORMER FOSTER YOUTH,  
ADOPTED YOUTH AND YOUTH IN PCA/PMC**

**Chart Revised July 2013**

<b>EDUCATION AND TRAINING VOUCHER (ETV) PROGRAM</b>	<b>STATE COLLEGE TUITION AND FEE WAIVER</b>	<b>OTHER DFPS EDUCATION RESOURCES</b>
<p><u>Brief Description</u>-The ETV program is a <b>federally</b> funded program that may provide up to \$5,000 a year to eligible youth/young adults for education related expenses including rent, utilities, childcare, computers, books, transportation, and personal expenses for Students enrolled in college or vocational/technical programs.</p>	<p><u>Brief Description</u>-The college tuition and fee waiver provides exemption at Texas' <b>state</b> supported colleges and universities to DFPS youth who were formerly in foster care, adopted youth, and youth in Permanent Managing Conservatorship.</p>	<p><u>Brief Description</u>-<b>Preparation For Adult Living (PAL)</b> Services prepare youth for adult life when they leave foster care. This is a <b>federal</b> program.</p>
<p><b>Eligibility:</b> FOSTER YOUTH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Youth in foster care who are at least 16 and likely to remain in care until 18; or</li> <li>❖ Youth who aged out foster care but have not turned 21</li> </ul> <p>*Undocumented youth are not eligible for ETV.</p>	<p><b>Eligibility:</b> FOSTER YOUTH-must be in DFPS conservatorship on or after:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The day preceding the student's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday;</li> <li>❖ The day of the student's 14<sup>th</sup> birthday, if also eligible for adoption on or after that day;</li> <li>❖ The date the student graduates from high school or receives the equivalent of a high school diploma</li> </ul>	<p><b>Eligibility:</b> The targeted priority population are youth in DFPS-paid substitute care who are at least age 16 or older and likely to remain in foster care until at least age 18. Youth/young adults may qualify for PAL services up to their <b>21st</b> birthday.</p>
<p>ADOPTED YOUTH OR YOUTH WHO ENTER PERMANENCY CARE ASSISTANCE (PCA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Youth not yet age 21 and are adopted after turning after age 16; or</li> <li>❖ Youth not yet age 21 and entered PCA after age 16</li> </ul> <p>A youth is eligible for ETV if they are in the custody of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD), or under the jurisdiction of a local juvenile probation department and were in a Title IV-E placement and receiving Title IV-E payments the day before he/she turns 18.</p>	<p>ADOPTED YOUTH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Adoption occurred on or after September 1, 2009; OR</li> <li>❖ Adopted and the subject of an adoption assistance agreement for monthly financial assistance and Medicaid</li> </ul> <p>PERMANENT MANAGING CONSERVATORSHIP(PMC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ PMC of the student was granted to an individual other than the student's parent on or after September 1, 2009.</li> </ul>	<p><b>PAL Benefits:</b> <u>Transitional Living Allowance</u>-Up to \$1,000 and must meet the qualification requirements to include completion of PAL Life Skills Training. <u>Aftercare Room and Board Assistance</u>-Based on need and emergency, up to \$500 a month (not to exceed \$3,000 of accumulated payments) and have been in DFPS paid care at age 18 and meet qualification requirements.</p>
<p><b>Age 21 up to age 23:</b> A student who has applied for and been approved for ETV before his/her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday may remain eligible until age 23 as long as they are making satisfactory academic progress toward completion of the student's academic program.</p>	<p>DUAL CREDIT COURSES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Students who enroll in a dual credit course or other course in which they may earn joint high school and college credit. Must be in DFPS conservatorship on the day of enrollment.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Program Enrollment (meet PAL eligibility criteria) and:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ be between 16 and 21 years of age; and</li> <li>❖ meet qualification requirements as they apply to each PAL Service.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Scholastic eligibility criteria:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Have a high school diploma or GED or be exempt from required school attendance; or</li> <li>❖ Are enrolled in a dual credit course or other course at an institution of higher education where they earn a joint high school diploma and college credit.</li> </ul> <p>NOTE: ETV funds may be used to pay for some college attendance costs if a student is in paid DFPS foster care. <b>ETV website:</b> <a href="http://www.texasetv.com">http://www.texasetv.com</a></p>	<p><b>Higher Education Enrollment/Age Criteria:</b> FOSTER YOUTH, YOUTH IN PMC, AND YOUTH ADOPTED ON OR AFTER SEPTEMBER 1, 2009-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Must enroll in an institution of higher education as an undergraduate not later than the student's <b>25<sup>th</sup></b> birthday.</li> </ul> <p>ADOPTED YOUTH SUBJECT WITH AN ADOPTION ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ There is no age limit to enroll in an institution of higher education.</li> </ul>	<p>For more information about PAL services go to this website: <a href="http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Preparation_For_Adult_Living/default.asp">http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Preparation_For_Adult_Living/default.asp</a></p>



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<p align="center"><b>Cont'd-EDUCATION AND TRAINING VOUCHER (ETV) PROGRAM-Schools</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Cont'd-STATE TUITION AND FEE WAIVER Schools</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Cont'd-OTHER DFPS EDUCATION RESOURCES</b></p>
<p>Youth/young adults receiving ETV apply these funds to the cost of attendance associated with attending *accredited or pre-accredited nonprofit private or public institutions of higher education, in the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ provides a bachelor's degree or not less than a two-year program that provides full credit towards a degree (associate degree) or certification; or</li> <li>▪ provides not less than a one-year program of training to prepare students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation; or</li> <li>▪ is also a private institution that has been in existence for at least two years and provides a program of training to prepare students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation (proprietary schools).</li> </ul> <p>Correspondence, Distance Education, or Continuing Education courses must be part of a student's academic degree or certificate program for ETV purposes. Students need prior approval by the ETV staff for these courses.</p> <p>*all of the categories listed above must be accredited or have been granted pre-accreditation status by such an agency or organization that has been recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education.</p> <p><i>Statutory Citation:</i> P.L., 110-351, Section 101-Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, Sec. 477 (a) Texas Administrative Code §700.1613</p>	<p>Youth/young adults are exempt from the payment of college tuition and fees at <b>Texas state-supported</b> colleges and universities, public medical school, public dental schools, or public technical institutes.</p> <p>Note: Fees are covered if it is required for education purposes (i.e., lab or other mandatory fees).</p> <p>The waiver letter must be submitted to the schools registrar's office by the youth/young adult at the time of enrollment.</p> <p>The Texas Education Agency and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THCEB) are responsible for developing outreach programs to ensure that students in foster or other residential care in grades 9-12 are aware of the availability of the exemption from payment of tuition and fees.</p> <p>THECB provides helpful information needed for youth/young adults to plan for college at <a href="http://www.collegeforalltexas.com/">http://www.collegeforalltexas.com/</a></p> <p><i>Statutory Citation:</i> Texas Education Code §54.366 and §54.367</p>	<p>If a youth/young adult is eligible for PAL Aftercare room and board assistance, these funds are used after ETV funds have been expended.</p> <p><b><i>DFPS SCHOLARSHIPS:</i></b> <b>Freshmen Success Fund for Foster Youth (est. April 2013):</b> This is a grant for first time college freshmen formerly in DFPS foster care. Each year there will be 4 one time grants of \$1,000 available for young adults enrolling in their freshmen year. These grants are to cover basic non-tuition related expenses such as books and supplies, computers and software, tools and uniforms and transportation. Students must be enrolled in a Texas state-supported college, university, or vocational/technical school that accepts the state college tuition and fee waiver. More information about this scholarship is available at: <a href="http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/txyouth/education/financial.asp">http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/txyouth/education/financial.asp</a></p> <p><b>C. Ed Davis-PAL Scholarship (est. July 2012):</b> This scholarship is for basic non-tuition needs for former foster youth who are majoring in government, political science, history, or other pre-law field. Scholarships are for \$1,000 per academic year and are available to sophomore, junior, or senior year students. More information about this scholarship is available at: <a href="http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/txyouth/education/financial.asp">http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/txyouth/education/financial.asp</a></p>

Regional PAL staff can be contacted for additional information regarding these services/programs.  
<http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child Protection/Youth and Young Adults/Preparation For Adult Living/PAL coordinators.asp>  
 For additional information on CPS-Transitional Living Services go to:  
<http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child Protection/Youth and Young Adults/default.asp>