

**BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER**

HANDBOOK Revision, Fee Waiver for Nevada Foster Youth

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

At its September 6-7, 2018 meeting the Board of Regents approved a [fee waiver for Nevada Foster Youth](#). One eligibility requirement for the waiver is that the foster youth must have graduated from a Nevada high school or obtained a general equivalency diploma. Based on information provided by the Nevada Department of Health and Human services, there are certain circumstances where students who are officially in the custody of a Nevada child welfare agency may graduate from high school out of the State. This proposed policy revision maintains the requirement that Nevada foster youth must have earned a high school diploma or equivalent to be eligible for the fee waiver but removes the requirement that the diploma must be earned in Nevada.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Approve the proposed revision, which provides that students who graduate from a non-Nevada high school are eligible for the waiver, including students who were placed by a Nevada welfare agency out of state for treatment or through an Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children (ICPC) and did not achieve permanency with a family prior to the attainment of age 18. This policy revision will apply prospectively.

IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

This issue was brought to light during implementation of the Nevada Foster Youth fee waiver.

CHECK THE NSHE STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL THAT IS SUPPORTED BY THIS REQUEST:

- Access (Increase participation in post-secondary education)
- Success (Increase student success)
- Close the Achievement Gap (Close the achievement gap among underserved student populations)
- Workforce (Collaboratively address the challenges of the workforce and industry education needs of Nevada)
- Research (Co-develop solutions to the critical issues facing 21st century Nevada and raise the overall research profile)
- Not Applicable to NSHE Strategic Plan Goals

INDICATE HOW THE PROPOSAL SUPPORTS THE SPECIFIC STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL

Providing a limited expansion to the existing fee waiver for foster youth promotes access, success and closes the achievement gap for this typically low-income student population who face multiple challenges as young adults. Earning a bachelor's degree, associate degree or a certificate will provide these youth with the skills and knowledge necessary to be a productive part of Nevada's workforce.

BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- Currently foster youth who are placed by a Nevada child welfare agency outside the state of Nevada are not eligible for the NSHE Fee Waiver for Nevada Foster Youth. Because they are in the custody of the State of Nevada, these students who graduate from an out-of-state high school should qualify for the waiver just like their counterparts who graduate from a Nevada high school.

POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

None have been presented.

ALTERNATIVE(S) TO WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED/RECOMMENDED:

Retain existing policy.

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE:

The Chancellor's Office supports the proposed policy revision.

COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # _____ Chapter # _____ Section # _____
- ✓ Amends Current Board Policy: Title 4, Chapter 17, Section 13
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # _____ Section # _____
- Other: _____
- ✓ Fiscal Impact: Yes X No _____

Explain: while there will be a fiscal impact, the cost for implementing this policy ultimately depends upon the number of eligible students who choose to enroll at an NSHE institution, which makes it difficult to accurately predict.

POLICY PROPOSAL
Title 4, Chapter 17, Section 13
Fee Wavier for Nevada Foster Youth

Additions appear in *boldface italics*; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

Section 13. Fee Waiver for Nevada Foster Youth

1. A student who was in the custody of an agency which provides child welfare services in Nevada after the student reached the age of 14 years may be permitted to register for credit without a registration fee or, except as otherwise provided, laboratory fee(s) if the student:
 - a. Has graduated from [~~a Nevada~~] high school or obtained a general equivalency diploma or equivalent document;
 - b. Completes the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA); and
 - c. Is under the age of 26 years.

A student placed out of state by a Nevada child welfare agency for the purpose of treatment or who was placed out of state through an Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children (ICPC) and did not achieve permanency with a family prior to the attainment of age 18, is eligible for the waiver.

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