



NJ STARS Fact Sheet for 2015 High School Graduates

The New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship (NJ STARS) Program is an initiative created by the State of New Jersey that provides New Jersey's highest achieving students with free tuition at their home county college.

NJ STARS Benefits

The NJ STARS award covers the cost of tuition, less any State and/or Federal grants and scholarships, for up to five semesters. The award covers these charges for up to 18 credit hours per semester. Funding for NJ STARS awards is dependent upon annual State appropriations.

Student Eligibility

- ◆ New Jersey residents, who rank in the top 15.0% of their class at the end of either junior or senior year of high school are potentially eligible for the NJ STARS Program. Students must also complete a rigorous high school course of study and achieve the required score on a college placement test to determine college readiness may be eligible. (Note: All courses of study are considered "rigorous" for 2015 high school graduates.)
- ◆ Students who do not achieve the required score on the placement test will be able to take appropriate courses while still in high school to improve their skills or they can attend remedial courses at the county college while enrolled in high school.
- ◆ Students who graduate from high school and do not demonstrate college readiness will be given up to one year to gain the skills they need to become college ready. Students who do not demonstrate college readiness by September 1, 2016 are no longer NJ STARS eligible. **NJ STARS does not cover costs for remedial coursework.**
- ◆ All students must enroll in a full-time course of study no later than the fifth semester following high school graduation.
- ◆ Students must enroll full time in a degree program at their home county college, unless the student demonstrates that the home county college does not offer the desired program of study or the program is oversubscribed for at least one year.
- ◆ Students must take a minimum of 12 college-level credits per semester. NJ STARS covers up to 18 college-level credits per semester.
- ◆ Students must be legal New Jersey residents at the time of high school graduation and upon county college enrollment. A dependent student's residency is presumed to be that of his or her parent(s).
- ◆ Students must be U.S. citizens or eligible non-citizens and legal New Jersey residents for a minimum of twelve consecutive months prior to high school graduation.
- ◆ Students must apply for all forms of State and Federal need-based grants and merit scholarships and submit any requested documentation to complete and verify application data within established State deadlines.