

STATE OF INDIANA

STATE STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF INDIANA



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TO: Indiana Higher Education Financial Aid Offices
FROM: Amanda Stanley, Program and Communication Director *ATS*
RE: Children and Spouse of Indiana National Guard Member Tuition and Fee Remission
DATE: February 10, 2012

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an overview of the defined educational benefits for those students who are the child or spouse of a member of the Indiana National Guard who suffered a service connected death while serving on state active duty.

2011 legislative changes, as provided by Senate Enrolled Act ("SEA") 577, have been incorporated into this memorandum.

Who is eligible?

An individual:

- (1) whose father, mother or spouse was a member of the Indiana National Guard and suffered a service connected death while serving on state active duty;
- (2) who is eligible to pay the resident tuition (as determined by the institution) rate at the eligible Indiana institution the individual will attend; and
- (3) who possesses the requisite academic qualifications.

The deceased Indiana National Guard member must have been killed in the line of duty while deployed in the active military (Army or Air Force) or while engaged in other state active duty as determined by the Military Department of Indiana ("MDI") under IC 10-16-7-7.

Children must be the biological or legally adopted child of the covered Indiana National Guard member, and spouses must have been married to the covered member at the time of death. At the time of legal adoption, a child must have been less than 24 years of age, unmarried with no dependents and not a veteran of the armed forces. Adoption by the spouse of the covered Indiana National Guard member is not valid for inclusion of a child in the program.

To remain eligible, the child or spouse of a covered member must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress ("SAP") as determined by the institution and annually file the appropriate (and error-free) year's Free Application for Federal Student Aid ("FAFSA").

What is the benefit?

As a supplement to other state grants, this benefit pays 100 percent of tuition and regularly assessed fees at an eligible Indiana institution. (A full list of eligible institutions is available online at <http://www.in.gov/ssaci/2535.htm>.)

The benefit is limited to a maximum of 124 credit hours. If the student first applied and became eligible for the benefit before June 30, 2011, there is no time limit to use the allotted 124 credit hours. If the student first applied and became eligible for the benefit after June 30, 2011, the allotted 124 credit hours must be used within eight (8) years after the date the eligible individual first applied.

This benefit may be used at the undergraduate, graduate and professional degree level. However, tuition and regularly assessed fees for all students will be paid at the undergraduate rate charged by the institution. Details for processing and billing these awards will be provided to eligible institutions in the manual.

How does an individual apply for the benefit?

Application for this benefit is required. Each child and spouse must submit a separate application.

To receive the benefit, eligible individuals must:

- (1) Mail the completed State Form 52363 application and all necessary documentation to the MDI at **least 30 days before the start of the college term at:**

Joint Force Headquarters
ATTN: Education Services Office
9301 East 59th Street
Lawrence, IN 46216

- (MDI, after receipt of the application, will return an approved application to the student. If the application is not approved, the student will be so notified in writing.)
- (2) Submit the approved application to the financial aid office of the institution the student plans to attend **no later than 30 days prior to the end of the college term;** and
- (3) File the appropriate (and error-free) academic year's FAFSA, which may be completed online at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>. The FAFSA must be completed **no later than thirty (30) days prior to the end of the college term.** (The preferred completion date is by the State Student Assistance Commission of Indiana's ("SSACI") March 10 receipt deadline.)

Reapplication is necessary whenever a student changes the school he or she is attending or the student stops attending school for two or more consecutive semesters (excluding summer).

If you have questions about benefit eligibility, please contact the MDI at 317.964.7023 or <http://www.inarng.org/>.

If you have questions about SSACI, tuition charges or general financial aid, please contact SSACI Program and Communications Director Amanda Stanley at 317.234.8232 or ajstanley@ssaci.in.gov.