



## INDIANA COMMISSION *for* HIGHER EDUCATION

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

November 13, 2025

### **Commission for Higher Education Approves Frank O'Bannon Grant Student Aid Amounts**

*Indiana's primary need-based student financial aid program will maintain current award amounts*

**INDIANAPOLIS** – The [Indiana Commission for Higher Education](#) (Commission) voted to maintain the current Frank O'Bannon Grant award amounts for the 2026-2027 academic year. This [recommendation](#) maintains award amounts at the current level, despite a tight budget year, and provides stability from this year to next for Hoosier students and families pursuing higher education.

"Affordability continues to be a top priority for Hoosier students and families as they plan for life after high school," said Secretary Jenner. "For those choosing to pursue higher education here in Indiana, the Frank O'Bannon Grant remains one of our strongest tools to help reduce financial barriers. Coupled with our public institutions holding student tuition and fees flat, voting to continue the current Frank O'Bannon Grant amounts for the upcoming academic year provides important information to students and families as they make decisions about their educational future."

To increase transparency and collaboration, the Commission also announced that for the first time, the methodology used to predict future Frank O'Bannon Grant spending will be shared publicly early next year. Higher education institutions, financial aid organizations, and other key stakeholders will be encouraged to provide feedback that helps ensure the state continues to maximize the \$168 million annual appropriation and support as many students as possible.

Per Indiana statute, the [Frank O'Bannon Grant](#) includes both the Higher Education Award and the Freedom of Choice Award. As the state's primary need-based student financial aid program, last year alone, the Frank O'Bannon Grant helped over 37,000 Hoosiers afford college at both Indiana public and private institutions. Per statute, awards for recipients attending approved public institutions must be equal to 50 percent of the awards for students attending a private institution; therefore, for the [2026-2027 academic year](#), this equates to a maximum award of \$5,300 for a student attending a public institution and a maximum award of \$10,600 for a student attending a private institution.

Eligibility for the Frank O'Bannon Grant is based on financial need as determined by the federal [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#). Students do not need to apply for the grant; however, they must have a current FAFSA on file for the academic year to qualify.

Per statute, the 2026-2027 Frank O'Bannon Grant schedule of awards will be officially reviewed and voted on by the State Budget Committee at a later date.

For questions about state financial aid, students can contact the Commission by phone at 888-528-4719 or via email at [awards@che.in.gov](mailto:awards@che.in.gov).

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### **About the Indiana Commission for Higher Education**

Created in 1971, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (CHE, Commission) is the State's higher education coordinating agency, driven to improve economic and social mobility for fellow Hoosiers through postsecondary education and training, and is a part of Governor Mike Braun's Office of Education. The Commission's [HOPE \(Hoosier Opportunities & Possibilities through Education\) Agenda](#) serves as the agency's strategic plan and mission through 2030, providing seven goals around enrollment, completion, and graduate retention efforts. The Commission also administers Indiana's state financial aid programs, including [21st Century Scholars](#), which celebrates 35 years in 2025.