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|  | <b>INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES</b><br><b>CHILD WELFARE POLICY</b>                                 |                   |
|                                                                                   | <b>Chapter 11:</b> Older Youth Services<br><b>Section 10:</b> Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program |                   |
|                                                                                   | <b>Effective Date:</b> January 1, 2026                                                                     | <b>Version:</b> 6 |

## POLICY OVERVIEW

The Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program helps older youth who are or were in foster care pay for college and job training. The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) provides up to \$5,000 per year (not more than the cost of attendance) to eligible youth as long as this federal funding is available. The program is run by a service provider contracted by DCS.

## POLICY STATEMENT

Youth are eligible for ETV funding if they:

1. Are 16 to 18 years old, in foster care, not enrolled in high school, but have earned a high school equivalency (HSE) certificate, vocational certificate, or high school diploma;
2. Were adopted or placed in a guardianship from foster care on or age 16;
3. Were in foster care as a Juvenile Delinquent/Juvenile Status (JD/JS) youth (not in detention) on their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday;
4. Are a U.S. citizen or qualified non-citizen;
5. Have less than \$10,000 in personal assets (e.g., bank account, car, home);
6. Are accepted into or enrolled in college, university, or a technical/vocational school. The older youth must:
  - a. Tell ETV if they drop any classes; and
  - b. Show progress toward their degree or certificate, if already enrolled.

**Note:** Youth can only receive ETV for up to **five (5) years total**, even if the years are not consecutive.

## Ongoing Requirements (Up to Age 26)

To keep getting ETV funds, the youth must:

1. Reapply every year on the Indiana ETV website;
2. Stay enrolled in school or training;
3. Maintain a 2.0 grade point average (GPA) or higher; and
4. Send their transcript to the ETV program every semester/term.

**Note:** If the youth's GPA drops below a 2.0 or lower for one term, an academic success plan is required. If the GPA stays below 2.0 for two (2) consecutive terms, funding may stop unless they submit an appeal to the ETV provider.

## LEGAL REFERENCES

- [42 USC 677: John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood](#)