

State of New Jersey
Higher Education Student Assistance Authority

**Governor's Urban Scholarship Program
FACT SHEET**

SELECTION AND NOTIFICATION

The Governor's Urban Scholarship awards are based on information submitted by high school guidance counselors to the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA). **To receive an award, you must qualify academically and meet all eligibility requirements.**

There is NO application process; student eligibility is determined by the high schools reporting the top 15.0 percent of their current junior class to HESAA. HESAA then identifies students who rank in the top 5.0 percent with a cumulative G.P.A. of 3.0 or higher and sends a notice to eligible students who either accept or deny the award.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) – You must file a FAFSA (if you are a US citizen) or the New Jersey Alternative Financial Aid Application (undocumented students who meet certain qualifications) annually within established State deadlines.

Academic Eligibility –You must rank within the top 5.0% of your class and have a cumulative G.P.A. of 3.0 or higher at the end of your junior year in high school.

Financial Eligibility – The information on your FAFSA is used to calculate a New Jersey Eligibility Index (NJEI) which determines your financial eligibility for this award. Students with an NJEI below 10,500 qualify. The financial information reported on your application is subject to verification. Should changes in your information result in an NJEI exceeding 10,499, you will no longer qualify for the Governor's Urban Scholarship. You can view your eligibility for this award by creating an account and logging into the New Jersey Financial Aid Management System (NJFAMS). NJFAMS.HESAA.Org

Attendance at an Eligible NJ College or University – New Jersey has many public and private postsecondary schools, including two-year (primarily county/community colleges) and four-year colleges and universities. To view a list of eligible institutions, visit www.hesaa.org/pages/njgrantshome.aspx.

Citizenship – New Jersey's state-funded financial aid for higher education is now available for all qualifying students, regardless of their immigration status. Under a new policy signed into law by Governor Murphy on May 9, 2018, graduates of New Jersey high schools who have attended high school in New Jersey for at least 3 full years who do not have documented immigration status, and who meet other qualifying criteria, will be eligible.

Selective Service Registration – Male award recipients will be required to demonstrate compliance with the federal Military Selective Service Act.

New Jersey Residency – New Jersey grants and scholarships are limited to New Jersey residents. A New Jersey resident must have resided in the State for at least 12 consecutive months immediately prior to receiving the award.

Financial Aid – In addition to this merit award, you may be eligible for federal, State and campus-based financial aid. It is your responsibility to complete all applications within established deadlines each year.

Designated High-Need Communities –You must reside in one of the following communities at the time of high school nomination:

Asbury Park City	Camden City	Irvington Township	East Orange City	Jersey City	Millville City	Plainfield City
Lakewood Township	City of Newark	New Brunswick City	Paterson City	Roselle Borough	City of Trenton	Vineland City

ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS

To receive this award, you must enroll as a full-time, matriculated student at an eligible New Jersey college or university during the academic year and receive payment. If you do not receive an award payment during either the fall or spring semester, you will permanently lose your eligibility for future Governor's Urban Scholarship awards. It is the student's responsibility to inform HESAA of his/her college of attendance within established State deadlines (October 1 for fall and spring awards; February 1 for spring award only).

AWARD PAYMENT/FUNDING

Award Payment – After classes start, HESAA will send half of your total annual award to your college/university. This payment is made after HESAA receives confirmation of your enrollment. In most cases, the school will defer payment of the amount of the award on your term bill. If your term bill does not reflect the award, contact the school. Keep the SEN as evidence of your scholarship eligibility.

Funding – As with all publicly-supported student assistance programs, the value of the award is subject to annual State appropriations. HESAA will notify you if the amount of your award changes.

RENEWAL OF AWARD

The award is dependent upon future State appropriations. To renew each year, you must meet all eligibility requirements:

- 1) File a FAFSA and complete your State grant application within established State deadlines.
- 2) Enroll at an eligible New Jersey institution and receive payment.
- 3) Demonstrate financial need (NJEI below 10,500).
- 4) Continue full-time, matriculated enrollment.
- 5) Maintain satisfactory academic progress.

If you transfer to another New Jersey institution, you must send a written request to HESAA to transfer the award prior to the start of classes. Eligibility is limited to five semesters of payment at a two-year institution and eight semesters of payment at a four-year institution. Eligibility is limited to 10 semesters of payment for a bona fide five-year degree program that requires five years of undergraduate study.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE/DEFERMENT

The Governor's Urban Scholarship Program provides for a one-time, one-year leave of absence for study abroad programs, documented medical reasons, and extreme family financial hardship. Requests for a leave of absence/deferment are handled on a case-by-case basis. A written request must be submitted to HESAA prior to the period for which the leave of absence/deferment is required. The request must be accompanied by supporting documentation, including an approved leave of absence/deferment from the institution where the student is enrolled.

ELIGIBLE NEW JERSEY INSTITUTIONS

Please click on or go to the following link www.hesaa.org/pages/nigrantshome.aspx for a list of eligible Governor's Urban scholarship schools.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Call the HESAA Customer Care Line (English and Español) Monday through Thursday – 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Friday – 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 609-584-4480. You can also visit www.hesaa.org, or write to the New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority, Governor's Urban Scholarship Program, P.O. Box 540, Trenton, NJ 08625-0540. If you write a letter, please be sure to include your name, address, Social Security number and telephone number.