



Instate Tuition Equity Bill

Who Qualifies?

Overview

Each year, students who qualify for the Instate Tuition Equity Bill's provisions graduate from RI high schools. These students include honor roll awardees and star athletes, as well as aspiring engineers, scientists, teachers, and doctors. Brought to the United States by their parents as infants or young children, they live in the only country they know as home-America. Many graduate with spectacular records from RI high schools, but their families cannot afford to send them to RI colleges or universities, which charge them out-of-state tuition rates. It was for this reason that the RI Board of Governors voted unanimously to update its existing policy and extend in-state tuition rates to undocumented high school students pursuing higher education.

The Numbers

59 undocumented students enrolled at the University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, and the Community College of Rhode Island for the 2012 Fall Semester, the first semester in which the policy change had gone into effect. The combined tuition revenue of these 59 students was \$93,000 – revenue that would not have been made if these undocumented students were unable to attend school due to high tuition costs.

Eligibility Requirements

In order to be eligible to benefit from this Bill, students must:

- Have attended an approved RI high school for three or more years
- Have graduated from an approved RI high school or received a high school equivalency diploma from the state of Rhode Island
- Has registered as an entering student at, or is currently enrolled at, an accredited institution of higher education in Rhode Island not earlier than the fall semester or quarter of the 2009-2010 academic year
- Has filed with the institution of higher education an affidavit stating that:

- The student meets the aforementioned requirements

The student is a U.S. citizen, has lawful immigration status, or, if the student is not a U.S. citizen and does not have a lawful immigration status, has filed an application for lawful immigration status, or will file such an application as soon as he or she is eligible to do so.