Exemption from Nonresident Tuition Pursuant to the Maryland Dream Act

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Introduction
Pursuant to Education Article §15-106.8, the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) is required to report annually to the General Assembly on how many qualified individuals receive exemptions from paying non-resident tuition rates at public institutions of higher education in the State pursuant to the Maryland Dream Act. Students who receive the tuition exemption are eligible to pay a tuition rate equivalent to the resident tuition rate. Each institution that grants an exemption under this provision must keep a record of the number of individuals who pay the tuition rate in accordance with the statute and report the information to MHEC each year.

MHEC, in turn, must submit an annual report to the General Assembly in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article.

All Waiver Recipients, including Children of Undocumented Immigrants and U.S. Citizens From Outside Maryland
The following data are an aggregation of submissions provided by all public postsecondary institutions in the State that submitted data for this cycle.

Table 1. All Waiver Recipients - Tuition Exemptions and Student Savings by Term, 2025-2026

	Community Colleges		Four-Year Public Institutions	
Term	**Total Number of Students**	**Total Student Savings**	**Total Number of Students**	**Total Student Savings**
Summer 2025	232	$191,703	150	$680,219
Fall 2025	462	$1,010,999	521	$5,536,025
Winter 2025-26	111	$59,701	53	$154,147
Spring 2026	422	$915,363	492	$5,189,298
TOTALS	**	$2,177,766	**	$11,559,689

***Annual student totals are not provided, as individual recipients may have been enrolled across multiple terms during the year. Student headcount data are aggregated at the term level to protect student privacy. Term figures may not sum to totals due to rounding.*

In total, students from 24 public postsecondary institutions (14 community colleges and 10 four-year public institutions) benefited from the nonresident tuition exemption authorized under the Article. Total student savings equaled $13,737,455. The remaining 5 public postsecondary institutions that responded to MHEC's survey indicated that no students benefited from the tuition exemption.

- At the 14 Maryland community colleges at which the nonresident tuition exemption was used, the largest number of students to benefit from the nonresident tuition exemption were enrolled during the Fall 2025 semester (462 students). Over the 2025-2026 reporting period, this exemption resulted in a total student savings of $2,177,766.

- At the 10 Maryland four-year public institutions at which the nonresident tuition exemption was used, the largest number of students to benefit from the nonresident tuition exemption were enrolled during the Fall 2025 semester (521 students). Over the 2025-2026 reporting period, this exemption resulted in a total student savings of $11,559,689.

Table 2. U.S. Citizens From Outside Maryland - Tuition Exemptions and Student Savings by Term, 2025-2026

	Community Colleges		Four-Year Public Institutions	
Term	**Total Number of Students**	**Total Student Savings**	**Total Number of Students**	**Total Student Savings**
Summer 2025	1	$680	19	$88,748
Fall 2025	13	$28,602	58	$721,392
Winter 2025-26	3	$2,787	3	$11,743
Spring 2026	13	$24,775	58	$722,073
TOTALS	**	$56,844	**	$1,543,956

***Annual student totals are not provided, as individual recipients may have been enrolled across multiple terms during the year. Student headcount data are aggregated at the term level to protect student privacy. Term figures may not sum to totals due to rounding.*

In total, students from 24 public postsecondary institutions (14 community colleges and 10 four-year public institutions) who are U.S. citizen residents of states other than Maryland benefited from the nonresident tuition exemption authorized under the Article. Total student savings equaled $1,600,800. The remaining 5 public postsecondary institutions that responded to MHEC's survey indicated that no students in this population benefited from the tuition exemption.

- At the 14 Maryland community colleges at which the nonresident tuition exemption was used, the largest number of students to benefit from the nonresident tuition exemption were enrolled during the Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 semesters (13 students in each semester). Over the 2025-2026 reporting period, this exemption resulted in a total student savings of $56,844.
- At the 10 Maryland four-year public institutions at which the nonresident tuition exemption was used, the largest number of students to benefit from the nonresident tuition exemption were enrolled during the Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 semesters (58 students in each semester). Over the 2025-2026 reporting period, this exemption resulted in a total student savings of $1,543,956.