



**MHEC**  
Creating a state of achievement

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James D. Fielder, Jr., Ph. D.  
Secretary

September 1, 2017

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.  
President  
Senate of Maryland  
H-107 State House  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Michael E. Busch  
Speaker  
Maryland House of Delegates  
H-101 State House  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: MSAR #10852

Dear President Miller and Speaker Busch:

In accordance with Education Article §15-106.1(d), the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) presents the information below on Maryland Foster Care Tuition Waiver recipients and Maryland Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Tuition Waiver recipients. The statute requires the collection of the number of enrolled students who (1) received the specified tuition exemption during the prior academic year; (2) received the specified tuition exemption at any point during their enrollment at the institution; and (3) earned a bachelor's degree, associate degree, or certificate from the institution during the prior academic year. The following data are an aggregation of submissions provided by all public postsecondary institutions in the State.

	Foster Care Waiver		
	Total Number of Recipients in FY 2016	Total Number of Recipients in FY 2014, FY 2015, or FY 2016	Total Number of Recipients who graduated in FY 2016
Public Community Colleges	218	259	10
Public Four-Year Institutions	111	185	18
Totals	329	444	28

	Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Waiver		
	Total Number of Recipients in FY 2016	Total Number of Recipients in FY 2015 or FY 2016	Total Number of Recipients who graduated in FY 2016
Public Community Colleges	47	58	0
Public Four-Year Institutions	35	43	1
Totals	82	101	1

In total 26 public postsecondary institutions (16 community colleges and 10 public four-year institutions) awarded the Foster Care waiver to students in fiscal years 2014, 2015, and 2016.<sup>1</sup> Similarly, 17 public institutions (eight community colleges and nine public four-year institutions) awarded the Unaccompanied Homeless Youth waiver in fiscal years 2015 and 2016.

<sup>1</sup> In fiscal year 2014, the Foster Care waiver changed to expand eligibility and to alter the manner in which the award was applied to recipients. Therefore, MHEC selected fiscal year 2014 as the first year in which to collect data for this report.

- The majority of the recipients of the Foster Care waiver are enrolled at Maryland's community colleges. Despite this, a greater number of recipients graduated from the public four-year institutions in 2016.
- A smaller number of Unaccompanied Homeless Youth waivers were awarded by the public colleges and universities as compared to the Foster Care waiver. This may be driven, in part, by the fact that this waiver is newer, having begun in 2015.

If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or Dr. Jon Enriquez, Director of Research & Policy Analysis, at (410) 767-3095 or at [jon.enriquez1@maryland.gov](mailto:jon.enriquez1@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,



Dr. James D. Fielder  
Secretary