

State of New Jersey
Higher Education Student Assistance Authority

**Governor's Urban Scholarship Program
FACT SHEET
High School Class of 2026 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)/NJ Alternative Financial Aid Application – You must file a FAFSA (if you are a US citizen) or the New Jersey Alternative Financial Aid Application (NJ Dreamer 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)**. The NJEI 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), <https://njfams.hesaa.org/NJFAMS/login.aspx>.

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.njgrants.org.

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, or meet the requirements of P.L. 2018 c.12.

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	Burlington City	Bridgeton	Camden City	East Orange City	Elizabeth	Garfield	Gloucester City	Harrison	Hoboken
Irvington Township	Jersey City	Keansburg	Lakewood	Long Branch	Millville City	Neptune Township	Newark City	New Brunswick City	Orange
Passaic City	Paterson City	Pemberton Township	Perth Amboy	Phillipsburg	Plainfield City	Pleasantville	Roselle Borough	Salem City	Trenton City
Union City	Vineland City	West New York							

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.

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.

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/NJ Alternative Application 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 notify the school that you are a GUS recipient 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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Call the HESAA Customer Care Line (English and Español) Monday through Thursday – 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Friday – 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 609-584-4480, or email us at: Customercare@hesaa.org.