

S 1754

Higher Education Access and Success for Homeless and Foster Youth Act

**Congress:** 113 (2013–2015, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Education

**Introduced:** Nov 21, 2013

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. (Nov 21, 2013)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/senate-bill/1754>

Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** WA • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		Nov 21, 2013
Sen. Landrieu, Mary L. [D-LA]	D · LA		Nov 21, 2013
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Jan 6, 2014

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Nov 21, 2013

Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Education

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Higher Education Access and Success for Homeless and Foster Youth Act - Amends the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA) to include local educational agency homeless liaisons, their designees, and the directors of other programs serving homeless youth among those who may identify individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness as unaccompanied youth and thereby independent for financial aid purposes.

Frees financial aid administrators from being required to verify those determinations absent conflicting information. Requires the presumption, on the basis of those determinations and absent conflicting information, that students are independent in the years following their initial application for aid.

Defines "foster care children and youth" for purposes of the HEA.

Requires the Student Loan Ombudsman to receive, review, and resolve expeditiously, in consultation with knowledgeable parties, complaints regarding a student's independence as an orphan, foster child, ward of the court, or unaccompanied youth.

Requires postsecondary schools participating in programs under title IV (Student Assistance) of the HEA to:

- designate a staff person as a single point of contact to assist homeless and foster care youth in accessing and completing postsecondary education;
- post public notice about the assistance available to those youth, including their eligibility as independent students;
- have a plan for how those youth can access housing resources during and between academic terms; and
- include questions in their admissions application regarding the applicant's status as a homeless or foster care youth.

Requires grant recipients under the Federal TRIO programs to identify, recruit, and provide outreach and program services to homeless and foster care youth. (TRIO programs are designed to assist individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds in progressing through the academic pipeline from middle school to postbaccalaureate programs.)

Requires the TRIO Talent Search, Upward Bound, Student Support Services, and Educational Opportunity Centers programs to review and revise their policies and practices to remove barriers to the participation and retention of homeless and foster care youth, including by allowing those youth to participate in the programs immediately even if they are unaccompanied by a parent or guardian or are unable to produce the records normally required for enrollment.

Requires grant recipients under the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate programs (GEAR UP) to identify homeless and foster care youth and facilitate their participation in the programs. (GEAR UP programs are designed to facilitate the transition of low-income high school students into postsecondary education, including through the provision of scholarships.)

Prohibits a state from charging homeless and foster care youth tuition for attending a public institution of higher education in the state at a rate that is greater than the rate charged for state residents.

Requires institutions of higher education receiving grants for work-study programs to prioritize employment for students who are currently or formerly homeless or foster care youth.

Excludes from a student's income, for purposes of determining his or her eligibility for student assistance under title IV of the HEA, the value of education and training vouchers and any payments made directly to foster care youth under part E

(Foster Care and Adoption Assistance) of title IV of the Social Security Act.

Directs the Comptroller General to report to Congress within one year on the educational attainment of homeless and foster care youth.

### Actions Timeline

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- **Nov 21, 2013:** Introduced in Senate
- **Nov 21, 2013:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.