

States offering Education Tuition Waiver Fee and Resident Status

- A number of states have enacted laws providing for, tuition waivers, scholarships, resident tuition fees, or grant programs for Native American students.
- The below states allow for broad eligibility that is not limited to state residents who are members of tribes located within the state.
- Membership of **any** official state or federal recognition of a tribe PLUS residency requirements for individual students (**MI, MA, ME**)
 - MI (Waiver of Tuition)—A resident for no less than a year AND any North American Indian (1/4 quantum of blood) certified by individual's tribal association and MI commission on Indian Affairs.
 - MA (Waiver of Tuition)—A member of a federally recognized tribe or member of a MA acknowledged band or tribe AND a bona fide resident of MA.
 - ME (Waiver of Tuition)—member and included on current tribal census of federally, state, or provincially recognized tribe AND resident for purposes other than education
- Historical ties a tribe has to the state AND residency (**IA**)
 - IA (resident tuition fee)—American Indians who maintain a cultural identification with a tribe or nation historically connected with Iowa.
- Individual student has direct ties to state or member of a tribe that has direct ties with a state or a tribe within a state, but is not domiciled there (**CA, SD, OK**)
 - CA (resident tuition fee)—graduated from BIA operated high school in CA.
 - SD (resident tuition fee)—graduated from BIA operated high school in SD
 - OK (partial tuition waiver)—available to non-residents with documented affiliation to a federally recognized tribe in OK.
- Proximity of a tribe to the state (**UT, WA**)
 - WA (resident tuition fee)—resident of WA or adjacent state AND member of federally recognized tribe whose traditional tribal boundaries included part of WA
 - UT (resident tuition fee)—**Any** member of a federally recognized tribe whose border is at least contiguous with the border of Utah. (No residency requirement)
- In addition to these more flexible states, there are also states who offer tuition waivers and reduced fees to students who are both residents and members of tribes in that state.¹

¹ Examples of states who offer tuition waivers, but restrict these programs to that state only include: New Mexico, Idaho, Florida, and New York