

INFORMATION PAPER

IMNE-MIL-MW

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SUBJECT: In-state Tuition Rates for Higher Education Institutions

1. Mobility of the military community, coupled with the state-specific criteria for determining eligibility for in-state tuition often prevent military Family members from continuing their higher education. The Army is committed to ensuring Soldiers and Family members are afforded educational opportunities equal to the general population. Denying in-state tuition or the discontinuation of in-state tuition causes financial hardships, often preventing continuation of education.
2. The Army and the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) are very involved in initiatives to move forward with the Army Family Covenant. One of the of the OSD goals has been to persuade states to allow in-state tuition for service members and their Families, wherever they are assigned, and to continue these rates for students following the reassignment of the service member. All but one state now offers in-state rates while members and their Families are assigned in the state, and 36 states offer continuation of in-state rates as long as the student remains in their program. This is about double the rate from when they started working the issue several years ago. Recent federal legislation (Higher Education Opportunity Act, H.R. 4137) mandates all states allow in-state tuition starting July 2009, so the State Liaison Office is placing this issue in “monitor” status to ensure the states comply. This is exciting news for Military Families.
3. New York State in-state tuition benefits:
 - a. Military personnel stationed in New York, their spouse, and dependents receive in-state tuition benefits.
 - b. Eligibility for in-state tuition for military personnel, their spouse, and dependents continues as long as New York remains their home of record. There are continuity restrictions on in-state tuition for military personnel if they are reassigned. Upon reassignment, the in-state tuition rates typically continue. However, implementation is a “gray area,” and may differ depending on the educational institution.
 - c. According to the Office of the University Counsel, the tuition policy for State University of New York (SUNY) schools, as long as the active duty Family member is stationed in New York State; the student pays in-state tuition. If the active duty Family member leaves New York, the student is charged non-resident tuition rate, unless residency has been established by the student.
4. Information regarding eligibility of active military service members and their Families for in-state college tuition rates in their home state or state of duty assignment can be found online at <https://www.hrc.army.mil/SITE/Education/InState/index.htm>.

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