



Possible Ways to Finance Higher Education for Students with Intellectual Disabilities

- [Division of Vocational and Rehabilitation Services\(DVRS\)](#)

DVRS provides a wide range of individualized services to assist persons with disabilities to prepare for, obtain and maintain employment. Services include vocational assessment, counseling and guidance, job placement assistance, **education and vocational training**, and other services as required to assist the individual to achieve employment.

*Visit: <http://jobs4jersey.com/jobs4jersey/jobseekers/disable/index.html>

- [Federal Financial Aid](#)

The Post-Secondary Education Program must be an approved Comprehensive Transition Program (CTP) through Federal Student Aid, Pell Grants, supplemental Education Opportunity Grants, and federal work study. ***Students are NOT eligible for student loans***

*Visit: <http://studentaid.ed.gov/eligibility/intellectual-disabilities>

- [Medicaid Waiver](#)

Medicaid funds cannot be used for tuition and fees but can be used to pay for student support services such as: ***Education Coaches, Mentors, Physical or Occupational Therapy, Transportation, and Supported Employment.***

*Visit: <http://nj.gov/humanservices/dds/ohcs/waiver/>

- [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2004](#)

The law allows IDEA funds to pay tuition and other costs for students to attend college. School districts across the country are participating in funding “dual enrollment” programs. High schools partner with local colleges or universities and fund students age 18-21 to complete their educational program in a college setting.

*Check with your high school for more details.

- [Social Security Administration Work Incentives \(SSA\)](#)

The Plan for Achieving Self-Support (PASS) program allows Social Security beneficiaries to exclude income that is being used to assist the person in returning to work. Under PASS, income is set aside for current or future expenses of training, equipment, services, or supports including college- as long as it is related to a specific employment goal.

*Visit <http://.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityresearch/wi/pass.htm>

- [Scholarships](#)

There are a small number of scholarship programs specifically for students with Down syndrome. Here is a Link to a list of scholarships for students with DS:

www.thinkcollege.net/resources-database/item/t-110/1630

You can also look at generic scholarships to determine if they might be eligible for your child to pay for college.

www.elearners.com/online-education-resources/finances/college-grants-and-scholarships-by-state/

- [Developmental Disability State Agencies](#)

Local, regional, and state agencies may not be able to support the program directly with funding but are able to realign their existing services to support their agency clients who are students attending college. EX: Community services such as transportation can be adjusted to support transportation to college.

- Foundations

There are many foundations that may provide funding to develop or maintain a postsecondary education program. These funds have covered a wide range of costs including program development and tuition and fees.

- Tuition Waiver

Tuition Waivers may be available through VR agencies; however, there is no universal implementation of waiver options nationally. A waiver that is provided by a VR agency would typically apply to any state-run college or university. ***Some community colleges also offer tuition waivers to individuals who receive SSI. Often, information about waivers is listed in the college catalog as a benefit for Senior Citizens. However these waivers apply to students of any age receiving SSI.***

For more information on this topic please visit: <http://www.thinkcollege.net/>