

Laws & Policies Improving Access to Higher Education for Immigrants

Last updated SEPTEMBER 2026

State	Year enacted	Bill number	Requirements: Years of high school in state	In-state tuition	State financial aid	Privately funded scholarships	Links to bill text, fiscal notes, analyses, and testimony, where available
AZ	2022	SCR 1044 , approved by voters in Proposition 308	2 years	Yes	N/A	N/A	SCR1044.docx (azleg.gov)
CA	2001	AB 540	3 years of high school coursework, provided that the student attended a total of 3 years at an elementary and/or secondary school in California, OR a total of 3 years of full-time attendance or credit at a California high school, adult school, or community college	Yes	Yes	Yes	California State Legislature - AB 540
	2011	AB 130					California State Legislature - AB 130
	2011	AB 131					California State Legislature - AB 131
	2012	AB 1899					California State Legislature - AB 1899
	2014	AB 2000					California State Legislature - AB 2000
	2014	SB 1210					California State Legislature - SB 1210
	2017	SB 68					California State Legislature - SB 68

	2019	SB 77					California State Legislature - SB 77
	2022	SB 1141					California State Legislature - SB 1141
CO	2013	SB 13-033	1 year (removing affidavit & strengthening privacy)	Yes	Yes	N/A	Colorado General Assembly
	2019	HB 19-1196					Colorado General Assembly
	2022	HB 22-1155					Colorado General Assembly
	2025	SB 25-276					Colorado General Assembly
CT	2011	HB 6390	2 years	Yes	N/A	Yes	Connecticut General Assembly
	2015	HB 6844					Connecticut General Assembly
	2018	SB 4					Connecticut General Assembly
DC	2017	Bill 21-0422	3 years	Yes	Yes	N/A	D.C. ACT 21-650
HI	2013	Section 6-9	1 year in Hawaii; 3 years in U.S.	Yes	Yes	Yes	University of Hawaii Board of Regents Policies (appears as abolished July 2025)
	2025	HB 1170	Graduated from high school in the state within two years of enrolling as an undergraduate				Hawai'i State Legislature
IL	2003	HB 60 *	3 years	Yes	Yes	Yes	Illinois General Assembly - HB 60
	2011	SB 2185 *	Effective July 1, 2026: 2 years high school or 3 years including community college, if graduated/GED, AA degree or 60 credits of coursework				Illinois General Assembly - SB 2185
	2019	HB 2691 *					Illinois General Assembly – HB 2691

	2024	SB 461*	Starred laws are enjoined; HB 5093 will go into effect in the 2027 academic year				Illinois General Assembly - Bill Status for SB0461
	2026	HB 5093					Illinois General Assembly - Bill Status of HB5093
KS	2004	HB 2145	3 years (* law is currently repealed, but litigation is ongoing)	Yes	N/A	N/A	Kansas Legislative Archive
MD	2011	SB 167	2 years of paying Maryland taxes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Maryland General Assembly
	2018	SB 532					Maryland General Assembly
	2020	HB 262					Maryland General Assembly
	2026	HB 1530					Maryland General Assembly
MA	2023	Chapter 28	3 years	Yes	Yes	N/A	Massachusetts Legislature
	2024	Section 22 FY 25 Budget					Section 22: Tuition Equity Technical Corrections FY25 Budget (mass.gov)
MN	2013	SF 1236	3 years	Yes	Yes	Yes	Minnesota Legislature
NE	2006	LB 239	3 years (* law is currently repealed, but litigation is ongoing)	Yes	N/A	N/A	Nebraska Legislature
NV	2021	SB 347	High school graduate	Yes	Yes	Yes	Nevada Legislature
NJ	2013	SB 2479	3 years	Yes	Yes	N/A	New Jersey Legislature
	2018	S 699					New Jersey Legislature
	2022	S 3119					New Jersey Legislature

NM	2005	SB 582	1 year	Yes	Yes	N/A	New Mexico Legislature
NY	2002	SB 7784	2 years	Yes	Yes		New York State Assembly
	2019	S1503/A2003					New York State Assembly
	2019	S1250/A782				Yes	New York State Assembly
OR	2013	HB 2787	3 years in Oregon high school; 5 years in elementary or secondary school in U.S.	Yes	Yes, financial aid, scholarships and grants	N/A	Oregon Legislature
	2015	SB 932					Oregon Legislature
	2018	SB 1563					Oregon Legislature
	2019	SB 859					Oregon Legislature
RI	2011	Residency Policy S-5.0	2 years	Yes	Yes	N/A	Board of Governors for Higher Education Policy Manual
	2021	SB 990					Rhode Island Legislature
	2022						General Laws of Rhode Island Section 16-96-3
	2023						General Laws of Rhode Island Section 16-107-5
	2026	SB 2650					General Laws of Rhode Island Section 16-113-6
TX	2001	HB 1403	3 years (* law was repealed in June 2025, but litigation is ongoing)	Yes	Yes	N/A	Texas Legislature - HB 1403
	2005	SB 1528					Texas Legislature - SB 1528

		(amends HB 1403)					
UT	2002	HB 144	3 years	Yes	N/A	Yes, for UT high school graduates	Utah State Legislature - HB 144
	2015	SB 253					Utah State Legislature - SB 253
	2019	HB 260				Utah Promise Scholarship	Utah State Legislature - HB 260
VT	2024	S 191	Institutions to develop rules	Yes	Yes	N/A	S.191 (vermont.gov)
VA	2020	SB 935	2 years	Yes	Yes (effective Aug. 1, 2022)	N/A	Virginia State Legislature
	2021	HB 2123					Virginia State Legislature
	2022	HB 526					Virginia State Legislature
WA	2003	HB 1079	Complete and obtain a high school diploma or equivalent, and lived in state for at least one year prior to being admitted to higher education institution	Yes	Yes	N/A	Washington State Legislature
	2014	SB 6523					Washington State Legislature
	2018	HB 1488					Washington State Legislature
	2020	SB 6561					Washington State Legislature
	2021	SB 5194					Washington State Legislature