The following information has been created as a result of collaborations between the Department of Community Colleges & Workforce Development, Department of Human Services, Oregon Student Access Commission, Oregon Tribes, the Oregon University System and Oregon Health and Sciences University.

Overview:
HB3471, the Foster Youth Tuition and Fee Waiver, was passed into legislation in July 2011 and is effective with the 2012-2013 academic year. HB3471 requires Oregon community colleges, the Oregon University System (OUS) and Oregon Health and Sciences University (OHSU) to provide current and former foster youth with a Tuition and Fee Waiver. Eligible students may receive the Foster Youth Tuition and Fee Waiver for the equivalent of four years of undergraduate education. Following are additional clarifications and requirements:

Eligibility:
The Department of Human Services (DHS) will be responsible for determining initial eligibility for the Tuition and Fee Waiver. The following criteria will be used to determine eligibility:

To qualify for the program, the student must:
1. Have spent at least 365 days in substitute care after age 16, with either the Oregon Department of Human Services or one of the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon.
2. Enroll as an undergraduate student no later than three years after the earliest of:
   - The date the student was removed from the care of the Department of Human Services or one of the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon,
   - The date the student graduated from high school, or
   - The date the student received the equivalent of a high school diploma.
3. Submit a completed FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) for each academic year he/she is eligible for the program.
4. For years after the first academic year, have completed a minimum of 30 volunteer service hours in the previous academic year. (See the Volunteer Program section of this document for more details.)

School Notification:
DHS will issue the first notice of eligible students in early April. Lists will be sent monthly through September (may become quarterly thereafter). DHS will send each institution a list of youth who have listed their school on the FAFSA as a potential for enrollment. The notice will be sent via a secure e-mail. The list will be attached as an Excel spreadsheet; instructions will also be included in the e-mail. At a minimum, the spreadsheet will contain the following data: Academic Year, SSN, Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial, Birth Date, Enroll By date (youth must be enrolled by this date to remain eligible), Year in College (per FAFSA), and school name.

If a student attends a school other than the one(s) listed on the student’s FAFSA, the school will not be listed on the DHS Eligibility Report. If an institution learns of a student who may be eligible for the Tuition and Fee Waiver, but the student is not listed on the Eligibility Report, the student should be instructed to:

- Update his/her FAFSA to reflect the correct institution.
- Contact DHS (ILP Fiscal Assistant, 503-945-6612) to request a review of their eligibility status. If eligible, the student will be provided a Wardship document that will confirm the student’s eligibility for the Tuition and Fee Waiver.
- Provide the institution a copy of the Wardship document.

HB3471 also requires OSAC to prioritize current and former foster youth for the Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG). OSAC will continue to notify the schools of the OOG awards through normal channels. At this time, students from foster care must attend Fall Term in order to receive an OOG award. OOG awards are not issued for Summer Term.
Duration of Tuition and Fee Waiver:
Eligible students may receive the Tuition and Fee Waiver for up to 12 terms of full-time study or the equivalent. Less than full time enrollment would be prorated accordingly. No minimum credits/courses are required.

Students may take a break from school, but must return prior to his or her 25th birthday in order to continue to qualify for Tuition and Fee Waiver. After age 25, a student must remain enrolled at an eligible post-secondary institution until completion of their undergraduate studies. A student must remain in good standing and may not “stop out” of school after age 25 or they will lose their eligibility for the tuition and fee waiver.

A student may transfer from a private or other post-secondary institution to an eligible institution. The student may receive the tuition and fee waiver at the eligible institution if the student meets the eligibility criteria above and transfers to an eligible institution prior to age 25.

If a student meets all other criteria for eligibility, but does not have a need for a Tuition and Fee Waiver, the student shall remain eligible until the student receives the equivalent of 4 years of undergraduate education.

Enrollment:
A student is considered enrolled when they have applied and been admitted to a bachelor’s degree program at a post-secondary institution, or registered at a college as an undergraduate student. In order to receive the Tuition and Fee Waiver, a student must enroll at an Oregon University System, OHSU campus or register at an Oregon community college.

A student must enroll for the term that is within 3 years of completing high school/GED or left care and legal wardship was dismissed (whichever comes first). For example, a student who completes high school/GED by November 2011 would need to be enrolled by Fall Term 2014. If a student waited until Winter term 2015, they would have exceeded 3 years.

Institutions may continue to request Advanced Tuition Deposits from potentially eligible students. If the student is determined to be eligible for the tuition and fee waiver, the school will need to refund the amount of
tuition deposit(s) paid. This would be determined at the time the school is finalizing a student’s financial aid.

When students are dual enrolled, each school is responsible for calculating and implementing the Tuition and Fee Waiver and requirements.

Eligible students may attend Summer Term and receive the Tuition and Fee Waiver. The term will count toward the 4 year maximum.

**Award:**
The tuition and fee waiver will be a component of the institution’s financial aid process. Awards made under the Foster Youth Tuition and Fee Waiver shall be applied after the following, if available to the student:
- Student’s federal financial aid (Pell, FSEOG),
- Oregon Opportunity Grant (if awarded), and
- Other institutional aid

Any amount of tuition and fees remaining after the Pell, FEOG, OOG and other school aid is applied will be waived.

Institutions are asked to notify DHS when a student has been provided a Tuition and Fee Waiver. This is optional. However, this will allow a central entity to track on-going eligibility (i.e. for transfer students, “stop-out” prior to age 25, etc.).

Financial aid sources **not** allowed as a reduction to the tuition and fees waived include:
- Non-tuition scholarships from sources outside the university or college (including those passed through OSAC),
- Chafee Education and Training Grant,
- Loans

Note: There is no state allocation that will assist the institutions with the costs of the tuition and fee waiver. The institutions will absorb the amount waived.
Foster Youth Tuition & Fee Waiver (HB3471)  
Protocols for Eligible Institutions  as of May 2012

Tuition and Fees waived:
A qualified student for The Foster Youth Tuition and Fee Waiver is entitled to waiver of tuition and fees as noted below:

- Tuition for academic credit courses (at base or differential rates depending upon program to which student is admitted) but not for noncredit courses
- Mandatory enrollment fees: building, incidental, health service, recreation center, or other mandatory fees that may be added from time to time
- One-time fees: matriculation, transcript for life (OIT only)
- Fees required for instruction related services such as lab or course fees that are assessed upon registration for a particular course

The waiver excludes all fees and fines for non-instruction related services and materials such as residence hall room and board, dining services, parking fees and fines, library fines, etc. In addition, text books and other course materials not assessed as part of a course fee are also excluded. Fees considered as “pass through” fees, paid to an outside provider, are exempt from the Tuition and Fee Waiver.

The Tuition and Fee Waiver may be used for an Associates degree, certificate program, and a Bachelors degree, but does not continue beyond the level of a Bachelors degree.

Volunteer Program:
The Oregon Tuition and Fee Waiver requires students receiving a tuition and fee waiver to complete 30 hours of volunteer service each academic year. Policies are to be developed by the institution of higher education at which the student is enrolled. Additional details:

- It is the responsibility of the student receiving the waiver to document compliance with the 30-hour requirement to the satisfaction of the college or university. The OUS, OHSU, and Community Colleges are collaborating to create a standardized log or reporting document.

- Each institution will be responsible for determining a process for confirming the 30 volunteer hours have been met prior to issuing a tuition waiver in year 2 and all subsequent years. Schools are
encouraged to create similar processes to allow students to transfer schools with minimal confusion regarding this requirement.

**Miscellaneous Questions:**

1. **Can an Oregon foster youth who has been placed/residing in another state return to Oregon and be eligible for the tuition waiver?**
   
   **Answer:** To be eligible for the tuition and fee waiver, an Oregon foster youth must be deemed a resident of Oregon. See more details below, in question 2.

2. **When an Oregon foster youth who has been residing in another state returns to Oregon and enrolls at an eligible institution, will the student have to pay out-of-state tuition?**
   
   **Answer:** Possibly. For all OUS and OHSU institutions, student residency is determined first at the campus level, following Oregon Administrative Rules, 580-010-0029 through 580-010-0047. A student should check with his/her campus to determine if he/she is considered a resident or not. If not, the student will be required to pay out-of-state tuition.

3. **May a student receive a modified diploma and still qualify for the tuition waiver?**
   
   **Answer:** Yes. However, the student must be taking credits/courses that will count towards an undergraduate certificate or degree.