



## Frequently Asked Questions

Say Yes Scholarships aren't designed to cover the full cost of postsecondary education but rather assist in making the process of paying for college feasible. Say Yes Guilford's Scholarship dollars are strictly to be applied as last dollar tuition payments and therefore are not designed to cover the total cost of postsecondary education.

### **Q: When will I find out if I am eligible for Say Yes funding?**

A: Students will receive an email to the email address provided on the Say Yes scholarship application informing them that their eligibility has been determined. This email will come from our scholarship team in late September.

### **Q: When will I receive my Fall semester funding and my Spring semester funding?**

A: Payments for the fall semester are made to the colleges after October 15th for students that have completed their Say Yes Guilford registration by June 1st and have completed their University FERPA consent form by August 31st (if applicable). In the Spring, payments are made to the colleges after March 1st, mirroring the fall semester schedule.

Please note: If you have not completed your FAFSA and your University FERPA consent form (if applicable to your college/university), then your scholarship award from Say Yes may be delayed. Contact the financial aid office at your college/university to make sure these have been completed and that the information has been sent to Say Yes Guilford.

### **Q: Why are the funds sent after the semester starts?**

A: Funds are sent to the college after all financial and academic information is received by Say Yes from the college, given the agreed-upon deadline. Say Yes will verify the student's enrollment at the college, number of credit hours, and financial information, as reported by the FAFSA, before any monies are dispersed. Student funds will be sent to colleges directly after our National Office determines eligibility based on the criteria.

### **Q: Will I have to pay late fees, or will I have a hold placed on my student account because my Say Yes Scholarship is not applied to my account until mid-semester?**

A: Say Yes Guilford works with Colleges and Universities to ask that they waive late fees associated with awaiting the Say Yes Scholarship funds. If an institution has refused to waive your late fees and the only outstanding amount owed to the college is expected in your Say Yes Scholarship award, please email [scholarship@sayyesguilford.org](mailto:scholarship@sayyesguilford.org) with details regarding student's first and last name, date of birth, and the school they attend that has assessed late fees to the account.

Please note, If you have a balance due beyond what the Say Yes Scholarship will cover, then you are responsible for those expenses, and any associated late fees.



**Q: I have a bill from the university, what do I do?**

A: Once the Say Yes award for tuition is calculated, we ask schools to place soft holds on student accounts. Depending upon the institution, the parent or guardian may be asked to make the payment and will then be reimbursed through the school once the Say Yes payment is processed. We always ask that parents or students check with the respective financial aid office at their college/university to gain a better understanding of their policies.

**Q: What does “last-dollar tuition scholarship” mean?**

A: For students attending a public two-year or four-year institution in North Carolina, Say Yes Guilford’s scholarship will cover the remaining balance of a student’s tuition costs (up to the designated tuition cap) after Pell grant, state need-based aid, and institutional aid have been applied based on their financial aid award package for the academic year.

**Q: How will the scholarships work to an in-state public college or university?**

A: In the case of a two-year or four-year North Carolina public college or university, Say Yes provides a tuition scholarship to cover the tuition costs (up to the designated tuition cap) that are not covered by Federal Pell Grant , state and/or institutional aid. In order to receive a Say Yes Scholarship, eligible students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the Say Yes Registration application.

For students interested in attending any of the public universities or community colleges in North Carolina, the following has been approved by the Scholarship Board based on continuous enrollment in Guilford County Schools and family income.

\*This is the working policy for the 2021-2022 school year. The Scholarship Board will continue to meet to refine policies.

\*Students who graduate early and who have been enrolled continuously in Guilford County Schools are still eligible for scholarships.

## Scholarship Program

North Carolina Public Institutions

Household Income	\$40,000 & Under	\$40,001– \$75,000	\$75,001– \$100,000	Above \$100,000
Continuous Enrollment	Must be enrolled by 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Must be enrolled by 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Must be enrolled by 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	N/A
Tuition Cap (after Pell, State & Institutional Aid)	Full Tuition Balance is Paid after Pell, State & Institutional Aid	Up to \$4,500 toward remaining tuition balance after Pell, State & Institutional Aid	Up to \$2,250 toward remaining tuition balance after Pell, State & Institutional Aid	No Say Yes tuition award at NC public institutions.

This is the current policy for the 2021–22 college year. The Say Yes Guilford Scholarship Board reserves the right to review and make changes to its model on an annual basis.



**Q: How can I calculate my Say Yes award for a NC Public College/University?’**

A: An example may be helpful to understand how the program is designed.

Kennedy is a GCS senior with a family income of \$50,000 and has been enrolled in Guilford County since kindergarten.

Based on this information, Kennedy is eligible for up to \$4,500 toward remaining tuition balance after the Federal Pell grant, state, and institutional aid.

\$40,001- \$75,000
Must be enrolled by 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Up to \$4,500 toward remaining tuition balance after Pell, State & Institutional Aid

While tuition among the sixteen public North Carolina colleges and universities varies, the average across the system is approximately \$4,500 total for a two-semester school year. After being accepted into a four-year NC Public College/ University, Kennedy received her financial aid package.

Kennedy received \$3,480 in Federal Pell Grant, \$1,000 state need-based aid, and \$1,480 in institutional aid based on the financial aid package. See below

In this case, the Say Yes Scholarship would cover the remaining balance of the total tuition, which would equate to \$1,020 to be applied toward the total cost of tuition for the academic year. Please see calculation below

Federal pell grant (as determined by student’s FAFSA)	\$1,000
Institutional Grant	\$1,480
NC Education Grant	+ <u>\$1,000</u>
<b>Total Federal, State &amp; Institutional Aid</b>	<b>\$3,480</b>



<b>Avg Cost of Tuition for NC Public</b>	<b>\$4,500</b>
<b>Total Aid</b>	<b>-\$3,480</b>
<b>Tuition Balance</b>	<b>\$1,020</b>

**While she is eligible for up to \$4,500 her tuition balance is only \$1,020**

**Therefore, she is awarded \$1,020/year or \$510/semester**

**Q: What if I receive the full Pell grant and it covers the cost of my tuition?**

A: In this case, the student would have received the maximum full Pell grant (\$6,495 for the 2021-2022 academic year). This student would then be eligible for the Say Yes Opportunity Grant. The Opportunity Grant is a \$350 award (\$175 per semester) that can be used to pay for expenses outside of tuition including, room and board, or books. More about the Say Yes Opportunity Grant is included below.

**Say Yes Opportunity Grant**

If a student wants to attend any North Carolina public two or four-year college or university and they receive the maximum amount of Pell Grant funding (covering their tuition cost) for the 2021-2022 year this amount is \$6,495 then they can receive a Say Yes Opportunity Grant, Opportunity Grants are \$350 for all students. The grant can be applied to room/board and other costs of attendance.

**Q: What about private colleges and universities?**

A: Eligible GCS graduates enrolled in a GCS school since 9th grade also have access to tuition scholarships at schools within the Say Yes Higher Education Compact that features over 100 private university partners.

Families with an income of \$75,000 or below are eligible for the full cost of tuition and fees. Families with an income over \$75,000 are eligible for up to \$5000 in a Choice Grant towards tuition and fees.

**▶ PRIVATE COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES**

**Tuition Scholarships for Private Partner Colleges**

Eligible graduates continuously enrolled in a Guilford County Schools system high school since 9th grade have access to tuition and fee scholarships provided directly by members of the Say Yes National Higher Education Compact. Families with a household income under \$75,000 per year (Adjusted Gross Income) will receive a full tuition and fees scholarship from any of the universities listed below.

Some partner colleges may consider a family's assets in considering the awarding of Say Yes scholarships. Students and parents are encouraged to contact the school(s) they are interested in attending and ask how the Say Yes tuition scholarship applies to them.

**Choice Grants for Private Schools**

Eligible students who want to attend one of the private schools in the Say Yes National Higher Education Compact, and whose family income is above \$75,000, may be eligible for Say Yes Choice Grants of up to \$5,000 to help cover part of the cost of tuition.

GCS graduates must have been continuously enrolled in a GCS school since 9th grade in order to be eligible for a Choice Grant. The Choice Grant, when combined with Pell, state, and institutional aid, cannot exceed the cost of tuition. Similarly, if the school covers tuition for a family whose family income is above \$75,000, the student is not eligible for a Choice Grant.

Household Income	\$75,000 & Under	Above \$75,000
Continuous Enrollment	Must be continuously enrolled in GCS since 9 <sup>th</sup> grade	Must be continuously enrolled in GCS since 9 <sup>th</sup> grade
Tuition	Tuition and select fees covered by Higher Ed Compact institution	Up to \$5,000 Choice Grant toward remaining tuition balance after Pell, State & Institutional Aid

**PRIVATE COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY PARTNERS**

Alfred University	Franklin & Marshall College	Northwestern University	Swarthmore College
Ashland University	George Washington University	Notre Dame College (S. Euclid, OH)	Syracuse University
Baldwin Wallace University	Georgetown University	Oberlin College	Texas Christian University
Bates College	Goodwin College	Occidental College	Trinity College
Benedict College	Greensboro College	Ohio Northern University	Trocaire College
Bennett College	Guilford College	Ohio Wesleyan University	Tufts University
Boston University	Hamilton College	Paul Smith's College	Tulane University
Bowdoin College	Harvard University	Paul Quinn College	Union College
Brown University	Harvey Mudd College	Pitzer College	University of Chicago
Bryant & Stratton College	High Point University*	Pomeroy College of Nursing at Crouse Hospital	University of Dayton
Bucknell University	Hilbert College	Pomona College	University of Notre Dame
California Institute of Technology	Hiram College	Princeton University	University of Pennsylvania
Canisius College	Hobart and William Smith Colleges	Providence College	University of Rochester
Carleton College	Ithaca College	Reed College	University of San Diego
Case Western Reserve University	John Carroll University	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	University of Southern California
Claremont McKenna College	Johns Hopkins University	Rhodes College	Vanderbilt University
Clarkson University	Kanyon College	Rice University	Vassar College
Colby College	Le Moyne College	Rochester Institute of Technology	Villa Maria College
Colgate University	Lehigh University	Salem College	Wake Forest University
College of Wooster	Lesley University	Sarah Lawrence College	Washington and Lee University
Colorado College	Lycoming College	Scripps College	Washington University in St. Louis
Columbia University	Marist College	Sewanee University of the South	Wellesley College
Cooper Union	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Simmons College of Kentucky	Wesleyan University
Cornell University	Medaille College	Smith College	Whitman College
Dartmouth College	Monroe College	Springfield College	Williams College
Davidson College	Morehouse College	St. Bonaventure University	Yale University
Denison University	Muhlenberg College	St. Joseph's College of Nursing	
Draw University	New York Institute of Technology	St. Olaf College	
Duke University	Northeastern University	Stanford University	
D'Youville College			

\*Limited partners



**Family Income Requirement – For Private Colleges and Universities**

Member institutions in the Compact will typically provide tuition scholarships (covering tuition and mandatory fees, but not room and board or books), after Federal Pell Grant, state need-based aid and other scholarships are applied, to eligible GCS graduates whose family income is at or below \$75,000. Please note, some partner colleges may consider a family’s assets in considering the awarding of Say Yes Scholarships. For questions related to how income or awards are calculated, students and parents should contact the institutions of interest.

**Say Yes Choice Grant**

Eligible students whose family income is above \$75,000 may be eligible for Say Yes Choice Grants of up to \$5,000 – from the local scholarship fund – to help cover part of the cost of tuition. The Choice Grant, which is provided by the local scholarship fund, is valued up to \$5,000 annually.

GCS graduates must have been enrolled in a GCS school since 9th grade in order to be eligible for a Choice Grant. The Choice Grant, when combined with Pell, state, and institutional aid, cannot exceed the cost of attendance. Similarly, if the school covers tuition for a family whose family income is above \$75,000, the student is not eligible for a Choice Grant. For questions related to how income is calculated, students and parents should contact the institutions of interest.

To provide an example, for a Say Yes eligible student with a family income at or below \$75,000 receiving a combined \$10,940 in Federal Pell Grant, state need-based aid, and institutional gift aid, the Say Yes Scholarship would cover the gap between the total tuition and the aid, which would be \$18,000 toward the cost of tuition in this scenario (Table 2). This Say Yes Scholarship to attend a Say Yes private college partner institution would be provided directly by the institution.

<b>TABLE 2: Say Yes Private Partner College</b>	
Full time undergraduate tuition-full year	\$28,940
Less awarded Federal Pell Grant, state need-based aid, and institutional gift aid	\$10,940
Remaining tuition	\$18,000
Say Yes Compact Award	\$18,000



**Q: Does the scholarship program consider multiple children in the family or multiple students in school?**

A: No, Say Yes Guilford does not take that into consideration. Instead, the number of students/family members is captured in the Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) via the completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which is required to be eligible to receive Say Yes Guilford funding.

**Q: How is family income determined?**

A: Family income is based on the Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) listed on a family's tax return and FAFSA.

**Q: What year is the family income based on?**

A: The 2021-2022 scholarship program is based on 2019 tax returns.

**Q: Are the dollar amounts of the tuition for a full year or per semester?**

A: The dollar amounts are for the full year. Say Yes Guilford makes two payments, one for the fall semester and one for the spring semester.

**Q: How many semesters is Say Yes funding available to each qualified student?**

A: The tuition scholarship will be available to full-time students attending a four-year institution for a total of eight semesters over the five years after high school graduation. For students attending a two-year program, the scholarship will be available for a total of four semesters over the three years following high school graduation. A student will still be eligible to receive the Say Yes Scholarship if he or she transitions from a two-year to a four-year college or university, provided it is an in-state public institution or a Say Yes Higher Education Compact partner institution. To remain eligible, students must remain in good academic standing. This means retaining a 2.0 GPA, completing 12 credit hours a semester, and maintaining financial aid eligibility.

**Q: What do current college students need to do to continue receiving Say Yes funds?**

A: If a student is continuing at the same school there are no additional steps within the Say Yes Portal, however, they must complete the FAFSA each year, register full time and maintain a 2.0 GPA. The Say Yes Scholarship Registration is a one-time completion in the student's senior year of high school. We just encourage them to keep their school choice and contact information updated.

In addition, Student grade-point-averages are reviewed every semester and eligibility will be revoked after two consecutive semesters of not meeting Satisfactory Academic Performance (SAP) and/or not obtaining at least twelve (12) credit hours each semester.

**Q. Can Say Yes funds be used for summer courses or graduate?**

A. No. Say Yes funds may only be applied to the fall and spring semesters and are for students who are pursuing associate degrees or bachelor's degrees.