

## BOARD ACTION

<b>Policy:</b>	
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Amendment to the Approval of the 2023/2024 &amp; 2024/2025 25&amp;Up 100% Tuition Waiver</b>

**Background of Issue:**

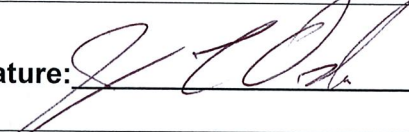
Section 375.30.30 of Am. Sub. H.B. 119 of the 127th General Assembly prohibits boards of trustees from authorizing waivers or nonpayment of instructional fees or general fees for any particular student or any class of students, other than waivers specifically authorized by law or approved by the Chancellor. Directive 2009-011 established guidelines for a board of trustees of a state institution of higher education in Ohio to adopt a flexible tuition policy and submit requests.

**The College is proposing that the Edison State Community College Board of Trustees approve the additional language underlined below as an amendment to the 100% Tuition Waiver program previously approved by the Board at its meeting on September 28, 2022.**

Edison State Community College believes it is important to support the success of students 25 years old and older who want to earn a college credential in a relatively short amount of time in order to create a brighter future for themselves. However, these students often face the responsibilities of caring for a family, working full-time, and dealing with financial challenges. Given their circumstances, it is not surprising that they would feel as though they do not have the time or money to go to college. To help alleviate these concerns, Edison State has created the 25+ Fast Track program, which features financial incentives for 25 and older students to complete accelerated associate degree programs (completed within four semesters), certificates, and short-term technical certificates that align with in-demand occupations. Therefore, the College is proposing that the Edison State Community College Board of Trustees approve the creation of the 25+ Fast Track 100% Tuition Waiver effective for academic years 2023/2024 and 2024/2025. Once approved by the Board of Trustees and the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education, this initiative will allow Edison State to waive up to four semesters of tuition costs remaining after an eligible student's financial aid has been applied. An eligible student is one who is 25 years old or older and has declared a qualifying accelerated associate degree program, certificate program, or short-term technical certificate program at Edison State.

Students must submit the waiver application, complete the FAFSA, and register for classes at Edison State by June 30, 2023, in order to be eligible for the waiver program. Students will continue to receive the waiver for up to four semesters provided that they maintain enrollment in subsequent fall and spring terms, maintain good academic standing, and meet any future deadlines of the waiver program. The waiver ends once the student has completed the qualifying program of study OR has completed 4 semesters. The waiver will not be used for repeated courses or courses outside of the eligible program.

All students must complete the FAFSA and accept any grants and/or scholarships awarded before receiving this waiver. The waiver is "last dollar" in nature, meaning it will be applied to students' accounts after all other grants and/or scholarships are applied. In addition, the waiver covers tuition only, which includes the instructional fee, general fee, technology fee, activity fee, and career services fee. The following costs are not covered by the waiver: textbooks and other course supplies, lab fees for individual courses, the security fee, student records fee, proficiency exam fee, portfolio evaluation fee, online course fee, web-flex course fee, costs of repeated coursework, or the cost of a course not associated with the eligible program.

<b>Impact on Student Success:</b>	This action will ensure that Edison State's 25 and older students have the opportunity to pursue a college credential a minimal financial cost, which is historically a leading cause of students not completing their higher education goals.	
<b>Impact on Budget:</b>	Estimating the financial impact of this waiver is challenging because the amount waived per student will be different, depending on the student's financial aid package and number of credits enrolled. However, based on similar waiver programs offered by Edison State in the past, the College anticipates waiving approximately \$750,000 in tuition each year under both the CCP/CT tuition waiver and the 25&Up tuition waiver.	
<b><u>Recommendation:</u></b> Approve the action item as presented.		
<b>Approved:</b> YES/NO	<b>Signature:</b>  , <b>Board Chair</b>	<b>Date:</b> 6-28-23