



2026–2027 NJ Stars Agreement
Office of Financial Aid

Student Information:

Name: _____ Student ID #: _____

High School: _____ Year of HS Graduation: _____

New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship (NJ STARS) Policies:

This list is abridged and does not, nor can it, list every situation/circumstance that may occur under the NJ STARS program.

1. I must be a legal New Jersey resident for a minimum of 12 consecutive months prior to high school graduation.
2. NJ STARS students are required to complete the 2026-2027 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at studentaid.gov. RCSJ's Federal School Code is **006901**. The FAFSA application must be completed by the 2026-2027 deadline stated on hesaa.org/Pages/StateDeadlinesNextAY.aspx
3. Please use the above referenced website for the 2026-2027 deadline to complete your State grant record with the State of New Jersey's Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) at njfams.hesaa.org. This is a requirement for every semester.
4. NJ STARS students must be in the **Top 15.0 percent** of their junior or senior year class. In addition, students must enroll in a full-time course of study no later than the fifth semester following high school graduation.
5. Please note that the NJ STAR scholarship is an **in-county, tuition only, "last dollar"** fund. All funds including grants, scholarships, waivers, third party checks and allowances will be paid to the student's account before the amount of NJ STARS will be determined and awarded, however award adjustments may be necessary if other funding comes in later. Students whose funding exceeds the amount of their tuition will be coded as a "Non-Funded" NJ STARS recipient.
6. Other scholarships and third-party checks **must** have a letter accompanying it stating that the monies must be applied only towards fees and/or books in order for the NJ STARS award amount to not be lowered.
7. NJ STARS students must submit a final high school transcript dated **after** their graduation date, with class rank and class size to determine eligibility for the NJ STARS award. If the NJSTARS student was *only Junior-Year eligible*, a letter from their High School will also be required to determine eligibility.
8. NJ STARS students are eligible to be coded as NJ STARS/"Non-Funded" NJ STARS with the State of NJ for **up to five semesters**, at a maximum of 18 credits per semester. This includes any semesters for which the student was eligible to be coded but was not due to outstanding requirements for RCSJ and/or the State of NJ.
9. NJ STARS **does not** cover the cost of tuition for developmental courses, nor courses taken during the Winter or Summer sessions. In addition, students majoring in areas that require an additional (sixth) semester must pay for the additional semester but may be able to retain their eligibility for NJ STARS II status.
10. Unless the student has an approved exemption, all eligible students **must always maintain** full-time (12 or more) college-level credits during their RCSJ enrollment. For an approved exemption, a minimum enrollment of 6 credits is required. If less than 12 credits are needed to graduate in a student's last semester, the student will need to have an advisor email the RCSJ Financial Aid NJ STARS Administrator to confirm.
11. **All Out-of-County NJ STARS students must have an approved chargeback form completed every semester** with the RCSJ Bursar Office. You can visit the forms section on the RCSJ Bursar Office website or contact them directly for more information regarding the deadlines and chargeback procedures.
12. The NJ STARS' academic progress policy requires that all students achieve a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point average by the start of their third semester of enrollment, in addition, it **requires that NJ STARS students achieve a minimum cumulative 3.25 GPA by graduation**. Students **will lose their eligibility** for the NJ STAR scholarship (I and II) **if they fail to maintain satisfactory academic progress** in accordance with the NJ STARS academic progress policy. In addition, an **Enrichment Program is required** if at the start of your second semester your GPA is below a 3.0 cumulative grade point average.
13. NJ STARS students must have a completed file and maintain the Standard Academic Policy established by the Office of Financial Aid at RCSJ.
14. NJ STARS students who are not attending must drop their classes before the semester begins. Failure to do so may result in owing a bill. NJ STARS will not cover the cost of tuition or related fees for courses that are dropped during the refund period, reported as never attended or withdrawn prior to NJ STARS certification. Students *will* be held responsible for these charges.
15. Regardless of whether a student receives any form of financial aid (including, but not limited to the NJ STAR scholarship, grants, loans, other scholarships and/or tuition waivers), the student must understand that they are **personally held fully responsible for all** financial charges that they accrue at RCSJ. RCSJ may permit a student to register before determining a student's eligibility for the NJ STAR scholarship and other forms of financial aid.

If, for any reason, a student should become ineligible for the NJ STAR scholarship or other types of financial aid, the student agrees to pay their account in full including any collection and/or attorney's fees that may be incurred by or on behalf of the College to satisfy the student's personal financial obligations. By signing this form, the student confirms that they have read and understand the NJ STARS Agreement.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____