

# Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program

## **Determining ETV Eligibility**

When trying to determine ETV eligibility, a student should review the information on page two of this document. If that student (maybe you!) thinks they may be eligible, they should connect with an Independent Living Specialist. Find the contact info for our state specialists on page six of this document.

To determine what specialist to contact, determine the county the student originally entered care. Find that county on the ILS contact page and contact that specialist.

Students can also reach out to Georgia ETV directly by clicking Contact Us on the ETV website and we can help you connect with the best contact for you!

# Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program

The Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program is designed to assist students who have experienced foster care with financial supports for educational and living expenses while attending a post-secondary educational institution

## ETV Eligibility Requirements

Student must have been in foster care for at least 6 months (whether or not the months are consecutive) with at least one day of that 6 months coming on or after the student's 14th birthday

If a student entered kinship guardianship or was adopted after attaining the age of 16, they must have been in foster care for at least 6 months (whether or not the months are consecutive) with at least one day of that 6 months coming on or after the student's 14th birthday

If a student was reunified with one or more of their biological parents after attaining age 16, they must have been in foster care for at least 6 months (whether or not the months are consecutive) with at least one day of that 6 months coming on or after the student's 14th birthday



## Additional Criteria

- Student must attend an **accredited** college or tech school
- Student is limited to a maximum of 5 years of ETV support
  - \* One "Year" is utilized when a student spends ETV dollars between July 1st and June 30th of the following year
- Student must be under the age of 26
- ETV funds are 'last dollar' funds, meaning all other sources of financial aid are applied first and ETV funds can be used to meet unmet need

Students must attend educationally accredited institutions in order to receive ETV. To check school accreditations, visit:

<https://www.ed.gov/accreditation> or <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

# Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program

Eligible students can receive...

**\$5,000** per year

These are funds typically paid directly to an accredited school or institution on a student's behalf

Notable eligibility criteria...

- ⇒ Must be ILP eligible <sup>A</sup>
- ⇒ Must be under age 26
- ⇒ 5 Year maximum limit for support <sup>B</sup>
- ⇒ Must meet GPA requirements

## Additional Support

ETV eligible students may also receive...

**\$300** per month <sup>C</sup>

Student's living on campus or in a DFCS paid placement

**OR**

**\$600** per month <sup>C</sup>

Student's living off campus in a non-paid placement

These are funds paid directly to a student through a pre-paid debit card

Must be under age 23 to receive stipend

### NOTES:

A...As part of Georgia's Division of Family and Children Services, the **Independent Living Program** serves to support eligible students in their transition from students into adulthood

B...A year is used when any ETV dollars are spent between July 1<sup>st</sup> and the following June 30<sup>th</sup>

C...A student must be enrolled full-time in an accredited school or educational institution to receive benefits for that month

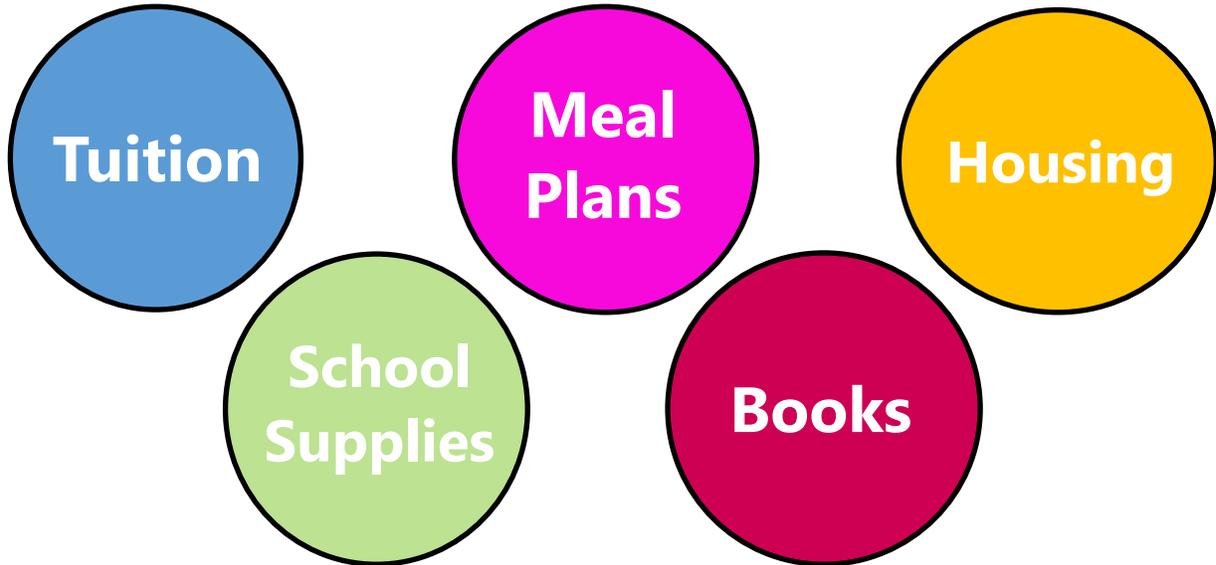
**Students should connect with their Independent Living Specialist for access and information...**



**[www.garyse-ilp.org](http://www.garyse-ilp.org)**

# What ETV Pays For

The Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program helps pay for Cost of Attendance which often includes:



## ETV Expenses are paid to...

### Institutions (Schools)

Tuition, housing and meal plans on campus, books, supplies, tools, and equipment related to current coursework, (after aid is applied, e.g., Pell and HOPE Scholarships)

ETV will work with an ILS to pay these expenses directly to the school

The student will be responsible for providing applicable invoices and paperwork before payment can be made

### Students

Payments that cannot be paid directly to the school but are considered cost of attendance can potentially be paid by the student and then reimbursed

ETV will work with an ILS to pay these expenses directly to the student through a check or direct deposit

The student will be responsible for providing applicable receipts, information and paperwork before payment can be made

## Getting Approval

The student MUST communicate and coordinate with their Independent Living Specialist consistently to determine what expenses are covered.

Students will also have to work closely with their financial aid and/or student accounts office at their school to make sure the school has everything they need to authorize payments correctly and make sure schedules/classes aren't dropped.

# Getting and Keeping ETV

In order to access ETV support, eligible students must...

**1) Connect with their ILS**



**2) Be accepted into college or technical school**

ILS: Independent Living Specialist;

<http://www.garyse-ilp.org/>

**3) Graduate high school or get their GED**

Once students begin receiving ETV support, they must...

An application allows students to share their goals and plans and changes (ex. transfer schools)

Complete Application

Schedules help confirm enrollment, grades and plan for ETV spending each semester

Submit Class Schedules

Communicate with their ILS

Submit Grades

Submit Invoices

Some schools will work directly with an ILS to submit invoices and some will require students to submit those to their ILS

Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher to continue receiving ETV. They must provide that grade report at the end of each semester

*Developing strong, positive relationships with an Independent Living Specialist is the most important component to a student receiving ETV support consistently and timely*

# Georgia Independent Living Specialists (ILS)

Region	Independent Living Specialist	Counties Served		
Region 1	Jershaun Roberts <i>Jershaun.Roberts@dhs.ga.gov</i>	Catoosa, Chattooga, Cherokee, Dade, Fannin, Gilmer, Gordon, Murray, Pickens, Walker, Whitfield		
Region 2	Fallecia Gee <i>Fallecia.Gee@dhs.ga.gov</i>	Banks, Dawson, Forsyth, Franklin, Habersham, Hall, Hart, Lumpkin, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union, White		
Region 3	Shakeria Jones <i>Shakeria.Jones1@dhs.ga.gov</i>	Bartow, Douglas, Floyd, Haralson, Paulding, Polk		
Region 4	Gerrica Morton <i>Gerrica.Morton@dhs.ga.gov</i>	Butts, Carroll, Coweta, Fayette, Heard, Lamar, Meriwether, Pike, Spalding, Troup, Upson		
Region 5	Jo R. Thomas <i>Jo.Thomas@dhs.ga.gov</i>	Barrow, Clarke, Elbert, Greene, Jackson, Jasper, Madison, Morgan, Newton, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Walton		
Region 6	Latrice Bakon <i>Latrice.Bakon@dhs.ga.gov</i>	Baldwin, Bibb, Crawford, Houston, Jones, Monroe, Peach, Putnam, Twiggs, Wilkinson		
Region 7	Larissa Thompson <i>Larissa.Thompson@dhs.ga.gov</i>	Burke, Columbia, Glascock, Hancock, Jefferson, Jenkins, Lincoln, McDuffie, Richmond, Screven, Taliaferro, Warren, Washington, Wilkes		
Region 8	Angela Davis <i>Angela.Davis2@dhs.ga.gov</i>	Chattahoochee, Clay, Crisp, Dooly, Harris, Macon, Marion, Muscogee, Quitman, Randolph, Schley, Stewart, Sumter, Talbot, Taylor, Webster		
Region 9	Wynecoka Thompson <i>Wynecoka.Thompson@dhs.ga.gov</i>	Appling, Bleckley, Candler, Dodge, Emanuel, Evans, Jeff Davis, Johnson, Laurens, Montgomery, Pulaski, Tattnell, Telfair, Toombs, Treutlen, Wayne, Wheeler, Wilcox		
Region 10	Leslie Blease <i>Leslie.Blease@dhs.ga.gov</i>	Baker, Calhoun, Colquitt, Decatur, Dougherty, Early, Grady, Lee, Miller, Mitchell, Seminole, Terrell, Thomas, Worth		
Region 11	Caitlin Giles <i>Caitlin.Redmon@dhs.ga.gov</i>	Atkinson, Bacon, Ben Hill, Berrien, Brantley, Brooks, Charlton, Clinch, Coffee, Cook, Echols, Irwin, Lanier, Lowndes, Pierce, Tift, Turner, Ware		
Region 12	Latrice Bakon <i>Latrice.Bakon@dhs.ga.gov</i>	Bryan, Bulloch, Camden, Chatham, Effingham, Glynn, Liberty, Long, McIntosh		
Region 13	Shante Campbell <i>Shante.Campbell@dhs.ga.gov</i>	Clayton, Henry, Rockdale		
	Simone Adderly <i>Simone.Adderly@dhs.ga.gov</i>	Cobb	Hannah Harris <i>Hannah.Harris@dhs.ga.gov</i>	Gwinnett
Region 14	Contesia Hoover <i>Contesia.Hoover@dhs.ga.gov</i>	Fulton		
	Barrett Askew <i>Barrett.Askew@dhs.ga.gov</i>	DeKalb	Kathleen Edwards <i>Kathleen.Edwards@dhs.ga.gov</i>	DeKalb