



2025-2026
SCCC Financial Aid Office
NJ STARS
Participant Responsibilities



Student's Name: _____ **Sussex ID#:** _____

In order to receive funding under the New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship (NJ STARS), there are certain obligations/requirements that a prospective NJ STARS recipient must meet or perform. Please review the NJ STARS Fact Sheet for 2025 High School Graduates: <https://www.hesaa.org/Documents/FactSheets/NJSTARS/FactSheetfor2025HSGrad.pdf>

I understand I must meet each of the following obligations. Please initial each line, sign and date the form to indicate you understand your responsibilities.

- _____ U.S. Citizens and eligible non-citizens must file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each year by April 15th if you were eligible for a Tuition Aid Grant in the previous academic year or by September 15th if you were not eligible for a Tuition Aid Grant. NJ Dreamers must file the NJ Alternative Financial Aid Application by the same deadlines. You must meet all published NJHESAA filing and completion deadlines to qualify (DEADLINES SUBJECT TO CHANGE). For additional information go to <https://www.hesaa.org/Pages/StateDeadlinesNextAY.aspx>
- _____ The New Jersey Council of County Colleges has determined that students who are in the top 15.0% of their high school class are ready for college-level coursework. **NJ STARS does not cover the cost for remedial/developmental coursework.** I understand that if I am taking remedial/developmental coursework I must be enrolled for a minimum of 12 college level credits in the same semester in order to qualify for NJ STARS funding for that term.
- _____ Pay for all coursework while I am deemed not to be college ready, including all remedial/developmental coursework.
- _____ Pay all fees and costs of books or secure other grants, scholarships or loans to cover those costs. I understand that NJ STARS pays for tuition only for a maximum of five semesters. NJ STARS participants must be enrolled **full time**, with a minimum of 12 credits and a maximum of 18 credits.
- _____ Enroll in a two-year degree program at Sussex County Community College and complete my degree within five semesters.
- _____ Authorize my high school to generate proof of placement in the top 15% of my junior year class if I failed to graduate in the top 15%.
- _____ Authorize my high school to send an official copy of my high school transcript **AFTER** graduation showing my **FINAL** rank in class and graduation date.
- _____ Students must enroll full-time in a degree program at their home county college, unless the student demonstrates that the home county college does not offer the desired program of study or the program is oversubscribed for at least one year. You must obtain and complete a chargeback form **EACH SEMESTER** from your home county college if you are not a Sussex County resident.

- _____ Submit any documentation requested of me to the appropriate agency (Federal Processing Center, State of NJ Higher Education Student Assistance Authority, Sussex County Community College) in a timely manner. Failure to do so may result in the loss of my NJ STARS funding.
- _____ Enroll in at least 12 college credits AND pay for any credits above my 18 credits limit. I understand if I drop any credits before my attendance is certified, I will have to pay out of pocket for these costs. Always check with the Financial Aid Office **PRIOR** to making any changes to your schedule (dropping, withdrawing or adding any classes). The only time I may take less than 12 credits (be less than full time) is during my **final** semester at Sussex if the college determines that I need less than 12 credits in that semester to complete my degree program. The NJ STARS program will pay for my tuition, ONLY if I have applied for graduation and have met all requirements to graduate.
- _____ I understand that the NJSTARS scholarship will only be payable in the Fall and Spring semesters for up to five semesters. Currently, NJ STARS resources **are not** available to cover any summer payments. (This means that students will not receive NJ STARS awards for any summer courses.)
- _____ Attain a 3.0 Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) or higher at the start of the third semester of enrollment at SCCC. Summer courses are included in determining the CGPA, however, any previously earned college credits taken during high school are not. Failure to do so will result in the loss of NJ STARS funding. After my first semester as a NJ STARS student, if I do not have the required 3.0 CGPA, I will enroll in an Enrichment Program provided for me by the College. Failure to do so can result in the loss of my NJ STARS funding.
- _____ Students must maintain **continuous** full-time enrollment unless on a medical leave, approved by the county college, due to the illness of the student, a member of the student's immediate family, or a family emergency. Students can attend part-time due to illness or the death of a parent or spouse. The only other exception to continuous full-time enrollment applies to NJ STARS students called to partial or full mobilization for State or Federal active duty as a member of the National Guard or a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States. **Documentation is required.**
- _____ Students enrolled in a nursing or engineering program that regularly requires six semesters to complete may retain NJ STARS II eligibility. However, NJ STARS will not cover the cost of the sixth semester.
- _____ A NJ STARS recipient who earns an associate degree from SCCC with a CGPA of 3.25 or higher, has a family income (taxable and untaxed income) of less than \$250,000 **and** meets all other program eligibility requirements may be eligible to receive an NJ STARS II award to transfer to a New Jersey TAG participating college or university to earn a baccalaureate degree.

Did you initial each of the above items? Then you are ready to sign below, showing your acceptance of the terms and conditions of the NJ STARS Program.

Student Signature

Date

Name (Please Print)

Sussex ID#

**PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THE NJ STARS PROGRAM IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE
DEPENDING ON THE GOVERNOR'S 2025/2026 STATE BUDGET.**