



## NJ STARS OVERVIEW

NJ STARS (**Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship**) is a program initiated by the State of NJ to provide tuition assistance to the state's highest-achieving students, enabling them to attend their home county college tuition free.

### Key Requirements for NJ STARS Program:

#### 1. **Academic Achievement:**

- Must be in the top 15% of the high school graduating class or at the end of junior year.
- Provide Brookdale with the final high school transcript, including class rank.
- If class rank is not on the transcript, a letter from the High School on letterhead is required (Brookdale's Office of Financial Aid will notify you if this letter is required).

#### 2. **Residency:**

- Must be a NJ resident.
- Attend the community college in the home county unless the desired program is not offered.
- If attending a different county college, an approved chargeback for each semester is necessary.

#### 3. **Financial Aid Application:**

- File FAFSA or NJ Alternative Financial Aid Application within the state and federal deadlines.
- Include Brookdale's college code (008404) in FAFSA.
- Submit requested documentation for eligibility determination.

#### 4. **Tuition Coverage:**

- NJ STARS covers tuition less any state and/or federal grants (up to 18 credits per semester) for a maximum of 5 semesters.
- Does not cover summer terms.
- May not cover the cost of classes not completed and dropped from my schedule.

#### 5. **Continuous Enrollment:**

- Enroll in a full-time course of study within the fifth semester after high school graduation.
- Must matriculate in a degree program, taking at least 12 college credits.
- Option to attend part-time in the final NJ STARS term with an affidavit of graduation.
- Maintain at least a 3.0 GPA by the start of the second year of enrollment.

#### 6. **Continuous Enrollment:**

- Maintain full-time continuous enrollment (12 or more credits per term).
- Notify the Financial Aid Office of special circumstances requiring withdrawal from all classes.
- Work with Student Success Coach for academic difficulties.

#### 7. **Disciplinary Actions:**

- If dismissed for disciplinary actions, responsible for repaying the entire NJ STARS award.

#### 8. **NJ STARS II Consideration:**

- To be considered for NJ STARS II at a 4-year institution:
  - Earn an associate degree with a 3.25 GPA within 5 terms of activating NJ STARS.
  - Be accepted for admission by a NJ college/university with a family income below \$250,000.