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Fry Scholarship

What is the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship?

Fry Scholarship provides Post-9/11 GI Bill® benefits to the children and surviving spouses of service members who died on or after September 11, 2001 either in the line of duty on active duty, as a reservist performing training, or from a service-connected disability. Eligible surviving dependents may each receive up to 36 months of Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits at the 100% tier level.

Who is eligible?

- Children
 - A child may begin using at age 18 (or upon graduating high school)
 - Child may be married or over 23 and still be eligible for Fry
 - Children whose parent died before January 1st 2013, and who graduated high school or turned 18 before that date, eligibility ends at age 33. For all others, there is no age limit.
 - Children of reserve Soldiers who died from a service connected disability while not on active duty do not have an age limit.
- Surviving spouses
 - Surviving spouses were added to this program on January 1st 2015
 - Eligibility ends upon remarriage

How do the payments work?

- Tuition and Fees
 - 100% of in-state tuition and fees are paid to any public school
 - Student may pursue any degree level, including a lateral or lesser degree
 - Flight training (certificate or rating program) capped at \$16,535/year
 - Generally cannot be used towards initial pilot's license
 - Private schools, foreign schools, non-college degrees, and out-of-state tuition are capped at \$28,937/year
 - Yellow Ribbon may cover excess tuition at participating schools: https://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/yellow_ribbon.asp
- Book Stipend
 - \$41.67 per credit hour, up to \$1,000/yr paid to the student

- Housing Stipend:
 - Pays to the student the equivalent of BAH of E5 with dependents for school's zip code
 - Kentucky schools range \$900-\$1,800/mo based on location for in-person training
 - If attending solely online, \$1,177/mo (full-time student rate)
 - If attending a foreign school, \$2,355/mo
 - Must be attending more than ½ time to receive a housing stipend
- Note: Children will not receive Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) while using Fry Scholarship. Surviving spouses may continue to receive DIC.

What is the impact of a child or surviving spouse serving in the military?

- A dependent child or surviving spouse who serves in the military and gains a GI Bill of their own must relinquish that program if they elect to use benefits under the Fry Scholarship.
- Fry recipients serving on active duty will NOT receive the monthly housing stipend.

May I also use Chapter 35 Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA)?

- Children
 - A child whose parent died on or after August 1st 2011 must make an irrevocable election between Fry Scholarship and DEA
 - A child whose parent died before August 1st 2011 may use both if eligible
 - May use all months of eligibility for each. Cannot draw both at the same time.
- Surviving spouses
 - Must make an irrevocable election between Fry and DEA if eligible for both programs
 - Those who used DEA in the past must make their election for classes beginning January 1st 2015 or later.

Where do I apply?

- Carefully compare Fry vs DEA and contact the KYARNG Education Office for counselling on which is best for you.
 - Basic Comparison- <https://www.va.gov/education/survivor-dependent-benefits/>
 - School specific comparison can show benefit rates for student receiving either program- <https://www.va.gov/gi-bill-comparison-tool>
(To see Fry rates, select Post 9-11 GI Bill and GYSGT Fry Scholarship 100%)
- Application and additional details: <https://www.va.gov/education/survivor-dependent-benefits/fry-scholarship/>
- Notify your school you are planning to use the Fry scholarship so they will certify your enrollment to the VA.
- Contact Survivor Outreach Services for any questions regarding additional survivor benefits and Kentucky Gold Star activities provided throughout the year:
 - Mr. David Orange, 502-607-1099, david.m.orange.ctr@army.mil