



Post-9/11 GI Bill: Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship

What is the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship?

Public Law 111-32, the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship, amends the Post-9/11 GI Bill (chapter 33) to include the children of service members who die in the line of duty after Sept. 10, 2001. The benefit is effective August 1, 2009; the same day the Post-9/11 GI Bill takes effect. Eligible children attending school may receive:

- Full tuition & fees paid directly to the school for all public school in-state students. For those attending private or foreign schools tuition & fees are capped at a statutory maximum amount per academic year.
- Students attending a private Institute of Higher Learning in AZ, MI, NH, NY, PA, SC or TX may be eligible for a higher tuition reimbursement rate
- A monthly housing allowance
- A books & supplies stipend

Who is eligible?

Children of an active duty member of the Armed Forces who has died in the line of duty on or after September 11, 2001, are eligible for this benefit. A child may be married or over 23 and still be eligible.

Eligible children:

- are entitled to 36 months of benefits at the 100% level
- may use the benefit until his or her 33rd birthday
- are not eligible for the Yellow Ribbon Program



Rules for eligible children serving, or who have served, in the Armed Forces:

- If the child is eligible under the Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty, Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve, and/or the Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP), then he or she must relinquish eligibility under one of those programs to receive benefits under Post-9/11 GI Bill
- A child's character of discharge from his or her own service does not impact eligibility resulting from the line of duty death of a parent
- A child on active duty will receive benefits at the active duty benefit rate
- A child may only qualify for up to 36 months of benefits under Fry and Post-9/11 GI Bill based on their own service. However, an individual may receive additional entitlement if another parent transfers entitlement to the individual.

Children who have used or wish to use entitlement under Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA)

- If a child is eligible for the Fry Scholarship, he or she may be eligible for VA's Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (DEA). Although the benefits cannot be used at the same time, a child may be eligible for up to 48 months of benefits between the two programs. Find out more about DEA at http://gibill.va.gov/benefits/other_programs/dea.html

How to apply

Go to VA's website, <http://www.gibill.va.gov/> and click on "Apply for Benefits." Paper versions of the form (VA Form 22-5490) may also be printed. A parent or guardian must sign the application if the child is under age 18.