The Maryland National Guard Education Office is pleased to announce several changes effective 1 JUL 2020:

1. State Tuition Waiver (STW) letters will now be issued centrally via the MDARNG app and email. To apply on the app, go to the home page>more>Apply for STW and STAR. The mobile app is only available to Army personnel at this time. Education Office personnel will check that you are not flagged, good on fitness test/HT-WT, regularly drilling, and then issue you an electronically-signed STW letter for use at one or our Partner Institutions. Email Army Guard applications to ng.md.mdarng.list.education-services@mail.mil. Email Air Guard applications to usaf.md.175-wg.mbx.tuition-assistance@mail.mil. Ensure all correspondence includes rank, full name, unit, phone number, school name and semester. **Applications must be made at least 10 days prior to the start of class.** Commanders will no longer need to sign STW letters.

2. State Tuition Assistance Reimbursement (STAR) reimburses MDNG Service Members (SM) up to **100% of tuition and related fees.** To apply on the app, go to the home page>more>Apply for STW and STAR. The mobile app is only available to Army personnel at this time. Education Office personnel will check that you are not flagged, good on fitness test/HT-WT, regularly drilling, and then instruct you on how to proceed. Email Army Guard applications to ng.md.mdarng.list.education-services@mail.mil. Email Air Guard applications to usaf.md.175-wg.mbx.tuition-assistance@mail.mil. STW is applied before STAR. Enlisted members must also use Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) (if they are eligible). **Application must be made at least 10 days prior to course start date.** At the end of each semester, Service Member submits several required documents – transcript showing C or better, final bill after all other benefits are applied (print to PDF after last day of course), and typed/signed STAR application form. Use of STAR funds will incur a two or four year service commitment to the State of Maryland, depending upon degree program.

3. Priority of funding is to E1-E4 obtaining their first degree.

4. Expanded STAR eligibility includes AGR Service Members at the lowest priority of funding.

5. Company Commanders may submit a memorandum requesting that an ineligible Service Member be issued a STW or paid STAR if the SM is making progress towards good standing and is an excellent performer in all other areas.

6. The initial cap on STAR will be $8,500 per SM, per year. This amount is subject to adjustment as funding and usage changes.

FAQ

1. Why are enlisted members required to use FTA in order to be eligible for STAR? This is to decrease out of pocket cost and because enlisted personnel do not incur a service obligation for using FTA, while Officers incur a two to four year obligation, depending on duty status.
2. What is FTA? Federal Tuition Assistance, accessible on www.GoArmyEd.com and transitioning to Army IgnitED on 27 JUL 2020. FTA covers up to $4,000 per year in eligible tuition costs.
3. Why do I need to apply for STAR before the semester and then submit documents after the end of class? The initial application is to determine eligibility and earmark funds, final submission is to ensure all other incentives were applied first and that you have attained a C or better.
4. If STAR is now 100%, why is there a cap? STAR is up to 100%, The MDNG manages the STAR program to ensure E1-E4s have adequate funding to obtain their first degree.
5. How do I get the App?

For Apple:
For Android: temporarily unavailable for download

Respectfully,

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