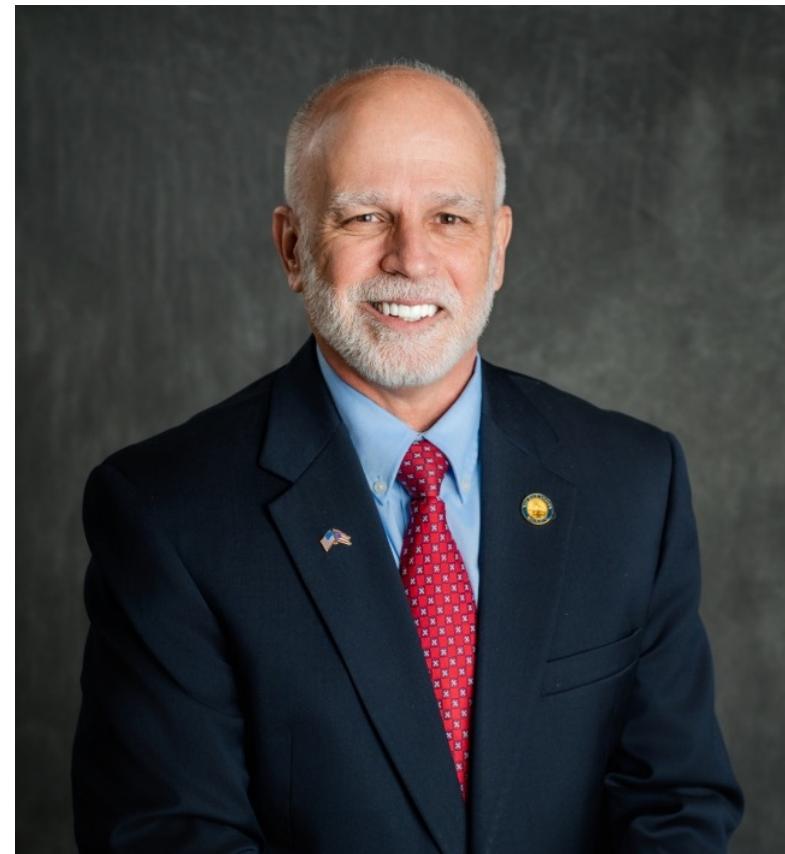


Appreciation for Senator Kyle Koehler

Thank you for:

- Representing Ohio's 10th Senatel District, which includes Montgomery County.
- Your work on the Senate Higher Education Committee
- Serving as Chair for the Senate Workforce Committee.





- Thank you for your support for expanding Pell Grants to include short-term job training programs.
- We have been working with Congressman Max Miller on the Foster Youth Workforce Opportunity Act to expand Education and Training Vouchers.



OHIO YAB Mission

We exist to be the knowledgeable statewide voice that influences policies and practices that impact youth who have or will experience out of home care.

Our vision is to connect current and former foster youth with:

Education

K-12 supports leading to high school graduation.

Post-secondary supports, with options including colleges, universities and vocational schools.

Employment

Early employment exposure, access to a bank account, and tips on budgeting.

Awareness of and connection to employment resources, including internships and apprenticeships.

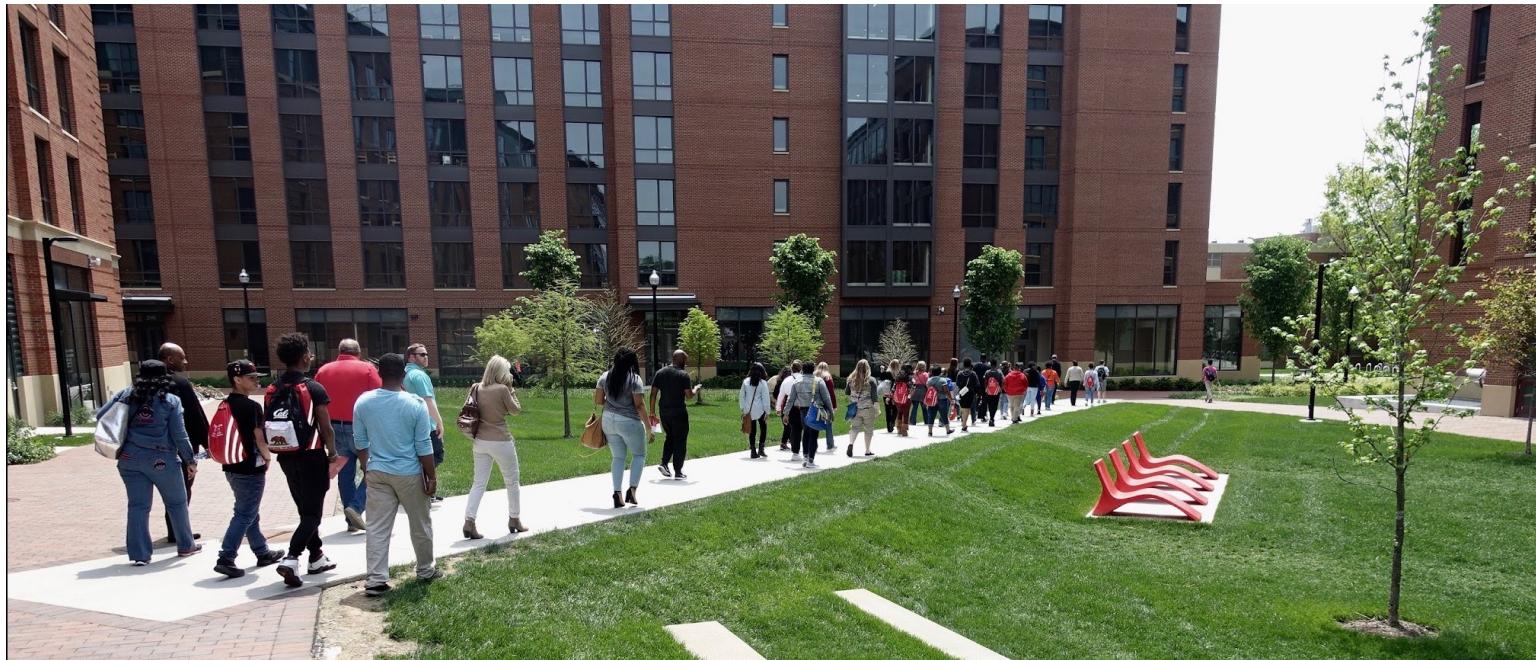
Economic Stability

Inform, support and empower teens in foster care; connect them with resources to break the cycle, such as Chafee, WIOA, and TANF-IL.

Overcome barriers, such as transportation, inconsistent allocation of resources and lack of informing and empowering youth.

Tuition Waivers

- In Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, New Mexico, North Carolina, and Virginia, publicly funded higher education institutions are simply prohibited from charging tuition for this population.
- This avoids needing to tap into the state's General Revenue Fund.



Maximum Pell Grant Compared to Cost of Tuition

**Proposed Reduction from \$7,395- 5,710*

	Ohio Universities	Community Colleges	Vocational Tech Schools
Tuition and Fees	CSU (Cleveland): 12,000 OSU (Columbus): 13,000 UC (Cincinnati): 13,000	CSTCC (Cincinnati): 5,359 CSCC (Columbus): 5,000 Tri-C (Cleveland): 3,249	Great Oaks (Cincinnati): 10,416
Housing and Food	CSU (Cleveland): 15,000 OSU (Columbus): 15,000 UC (Cincinnati): 16,000	CSTCC (Cincinnati): 8,500 CSCC (Columbus): 8,640 Tri-C (Cleveland): 9,200	Great Oaks (Cincinnati): 17,308 is average cost of housing + groceries per year
Books and Supplies	CSU (Cleveland): 1,000 OSU (Columbus): 1,000 UC (Cincinnati): 1,000	CSTCC (Cincinnati): 3,843 CSCC (Columbus): 1,800 Tri-C (Cleveland): 1,700	Great Oaks (Cincinnati): Depends on which program; automotive supplies are 3K
Transportation	CSU (Cleveland): 1,500 OSU (Columbus): 732 UC (Cincinnati): 2,000	CSTCC (Cincinnati): 1,610 CSCC (Columbus): 2,700 Tri-C (Cleveland): 1,725	Great Oaks (Cincinnati): 1,056 if student purchases a bus pass

Post Secondary Experience Comparison

Young Adults With Family Support

Tuition, Fees, Books, etc.

The average parent covers 43% of their student's college cost using income and savings.
(Sallie Mae study)

Support with Housing

63% of parents assist with the cost of dorm, rent or mortgage
(Savings.com research)

Support with Transportation

44% of parents assist with car payments, car repairs and other car-related costs.
(Savings.com research)

Other Areas of Support

83% of parents assist with groceries, 65% with cell phones, and 54% with health insurance.
(Savings.com research)

Former Foster Youth

Must rely on selves - and during their time in foster care, they aren't always allowed to have a job or a bank account.

Must rely on selves - those who live on campus often struggle to find a place to stay during breaks.

Must rely on selves - and youth in foster care face barriers to getting a driver's license, or even driver's ed.

Recent federal law has added a work requirement to SNAP for former foster youth and might impact Medicaid.

Marisa

[Link to Marisa's
testimonial.](#)



Dalen

- Tuition waivers would help foster youth so much with the struggle of paying for college.
- I still have no idea where I would be if I hadn't received the Flyer Promise Scholarship.



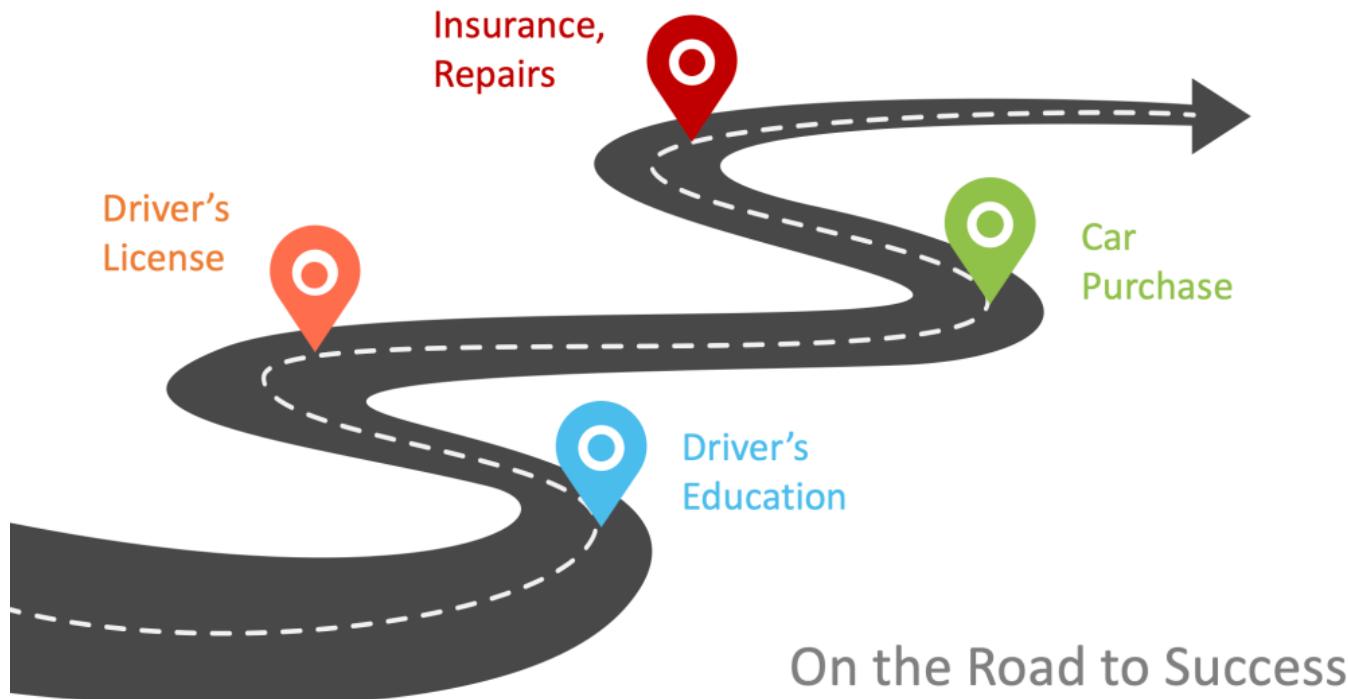
Sarah

- I was able to attain a Bachelors degree after foster care.
- But, along with my degree in Student Affairs in Higher Education, I also accumulated a lot of student loan debt.



Foster Youth and Driving Act

Would create state and tribal programs providing up to \$4,000 per year per youth for driver's education, training, insurance, licensing fees, and related costs.





Ohio recently lost its [TANF-Independent Living allocation](#). This happened at the same time that [driving requirements](#) were increased. We've been researching [how other states support foster youth](#), when it comes to driver's education, driver's licenses and car insurance.

Negative Impact on Employment

- **Driving is crucial for employment** because it significantly expands job opportunities beyond public transit routes, ensures reliable, on-time attendance, and enables access to jobs requiring travel, such as sales or deliveries.
- **A driver's license provides** flexibility, independence, and a competitive edge, often being a prerequisite for career advancement and securing roles in areas with limited transportation options.
- **Driving is a critical component** of many job opportunities, ranging from professional CDL truck driving to local delivery, courier, and rideshare services, with many jobs offering competitive pay and benefits.