



EDUCATION AND TRAINING



MARINE GUNNERY SERGEANT JOHN DAVID FRY SCHOLARSHIP

WHAT IS THE MARINE GUNNERY SERGEANT JOHN DAVID FRY SCHOLARSHIP?

Public Law 111-32 created the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship effective August 1, 2009. This benefit amended the Post-9/11 GI Bill® to include the children of service members who died in the line of duty after September 10, 2001. Public Law 113-146, The Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014, expanded eligibility for the Fry Scholarship to surviving spouses of service members who died in the line of duty after September 10, 2001. This amendment was effective January 1, 2015.

A new provision was signed into law that extends benefit eligibility for spouses of Servicemembers who died in the line of duty between September 11, 2001 and December 31, 2005. These spouses will now be eligible to use their remaining Fry benefits until January 1, 2021.

Eligible beneficiaries 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.
- A monthly housing allowance
- A books & supplies stipend

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Children and surviving spouses of an active duty member of the Armed Forces who 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, although their eligibility ends on their 33rd birthday. A spouse will lose eligibility to this benefit upon remarriage.

Eligible persons are:



Disabilities determined by VA to be related to your military service can lead to monthly non-taxable compensation, enrollment in the VA health care system, a 10-point hiring preference for federal employment and other important benefits. Ask your VA representative or Veterans Service Organization representative about Disability Compensation, Pension, Health Care, Caregiver Program, Career Services, Educational Assistance, Home Loan Guaranty, Insurance and/or Dependents and Survivors' Benefits.



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

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- Entitled to 36 months of benefits at the 100% level
 - 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 qualify for up to 36 months of benefits under the Fry Scholarship Program and possibly another 36 months of benefits of the Post-9/11 GI Bill based on their own service. An individual may also 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 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 the [DEA](#) program on the Education and Training website.
- Surviving spouses must make an irrevocable election of which benefit he or she wishes to receive. An election to receive DEA will forfeit the individual's right to receive Fry Scholarship in the future, and an election to receive the Fry Scholarship will forfeit the individual's right to receive DEA in the future. The election cannot be changed once it has been submitted, so you should carefully review eligibility and entitlement under both programs before making a decision



HOW TO APPLY

You can apply for DEA by visiting [Vets.gov](https://www.vets.gov) and completing the online application.

OTHER WAYS TO APPLY

In person

Go to a VA regional office and have a VA employee help you. Find a regional office near you.

Work with your school's certifying official. This person is usually in the Registrar or Financial Aid office at the school.

By mail

Call 1-888-442-4551 (1-888-GI-BILL-1) from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (ET), Monday through Friday, to request that we send the application to you. Fill it out and mail it to the VA regional claims processing office that's in the same location as your school. See a [list of regional claims processing offices](#).

Be sure to explore potential programs and how much you could receive using the GI Bill by visiting the [GI Bill Comparison Tool](#).

For more information, call toll-free 1-888-442-4551 (1-888-GI BILL 1) or visit our [GI Bill website](#)

