



To: NJ Institutions of Higher Education
From: NJ Office of the Secretary of Higher Education
Date: August 20, 2025
Subject: New Jersey State-Wide Data System (NJSDS) Research Report

In partnership with the Heldrich Center for Workforce Development at Rutgers University and the State-Wide Data System Executive Leadership Council, OSHE is excited to share the release of a new research report on the Tuition Aid Grant program. This new report examines the effect of the New Jersey Tuition Aid Grant (TAG) program on college graduation. Researchers analyzed the impact of the state-funded financial aid program on student success by comparing individuals who received a TAG award and those who didn't receive a TAG award. The study uses a regression-based model to adjust for different factors. To control for household income, the Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) survey data were used. Overall, the results shows that receiving a TAG award is positively associated with graduating and increases a student's probability of graduating within 150% of normal time to graduation. Furthermore, the research report shows how the TAG financial aid program supports under-served students, however the interaction with loans and other aid programs results in some differing interaction affects.

This report builds on the set of research reports, dashboards, and other deliverables produced using NJSDS data. Institutions are encouraged to monitor this website for updates and future research reports- <https://njsds.nj.gov/research-products/>. The current and most recent research report on the TAG financial aid program can be found here- https://njsds.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/Building_a_Comparison_Group_for_Tuition_Aid_Grant_Recipients_Using_the_New_Jersey_Statewide_Data_System.pdf.

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