

WHAT DOCUMENTATION DO I NEED?

Independent Status

Status	One of the following documents	Notes
Youth in foster care or ward of the court/state after the age of 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A copy of a court order • Statement from a state or county child welfare agency • Statement from a private provider agency that delivers child welfare services • Statement from an attorney or court appointed special advocate 	The provided statement does not need to include information on the youth's background or the circumstances leading up to them becoming a youth in care.
Orphan after the age of 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both parents' death certificates AND • Sometimes a birth certificate or other official document indicating parental relationship 	
Unaccompanied homeless youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement from the high school or school district homeless liaison • Statement from the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program • Statement from the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program. 	
Student in a Legal Guardianship	A copy of a court order	If the student is over 18, the court order must show the student was in guardianship immediately before turning 18. If the student is still a minor, the court order must still be in effect.
An emancipated minor	A copy of a court order.	There is no court process for becoming an emancipated minor in NY. In addition, a letter from a lawyer is not enough to determine emancipation.
Student (under 24) who supports dependents	<p>*Colleges may request any or all of these:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal documentation of dependent's relationship to the student • Lease or mortgage statement • Budget worksheet and receipts • Tax returns • Check stubs and budget letters 	Some verification forms on this subject are extensive and ask many questions about the student's living situation and how they support themselves. Colleges may ask for a lot of support documentation.

Financial Aid Application Process: Understanding the Complexities

Immigration Status

Status	One of the following documents	Notes
US Citizen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US Passport • Birth Certificate inside the US • Naturalization Certificate 	
Legal Permanent Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LPR Card or Green Card • I-551 stamp in foreign passport • Form I-94 with a photo and stamp I-551 	
Refugee/ Asylee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I-94 card in passport with asylee stamp • Letter from USCIS, judge order for asylum 	
Non-Immigrant Visa Holder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visa in passport AND I-94 card in passport (s) 	
Undocumented Person	N/A	