SYNOPSIS
Prohibits institutions of higher education and certain proprietary institutions from withholding transcript due to outstanding balance on student’s account.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT
As introduced.
AN ACT concerning the withholding of student transcripts by
institutions of higher education and certain proprietary
institutions and supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey
Statutes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
of New Jersey:

1. As used in this act:
“Debt” means any money, obligation, claim, or sum, due or
owing, or alleged to be due or owing, from a current or former
student, but does not include the fee, if any, charged to all students
for the actual costs of providing the transcripts; and
“Institution” means an institution of higher education or
proprietary institution licensed to offer academic degrees.

2. An institution shall not, due to an outstanding balance on a
current or former student’s account:
   a. refuse to provide a transcript for a current or former student
   on the grounds that the student owes a debt;
   b. condition the provision of a transcript on the payment of a
debt, other than a fee charged to provide the transcript;
   c. charge a higher fee for obtaining a transcript, or provide less
favorable treatment of a transcript request because a current or
former student owes a debt; or
   d. use transcript issuance as a tool for debt collection.

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill prohibits institutions of higher education and certain
proprietary institutions from withholding a student’s transcript due
to an outstanding balance on the student’s account.

This bill prohibits an institution, due to an outstanding balance
on a current or former student’s account, from:
   • refusing to provide a transcript for a current or former
   student on the grounds that the student owes a debt;
   • conditioning the provision of a transcript on the payment of
   a debt, other than a fee charged to provide the transcript;
   • charging a higher fee for obtaining a transcript, or provide
less favorable treatment of a transcript request because a
   current or former student owes a debt; or
   • using transcript issuance as a tool for debt collection.