



**FIRST2
NETWORK**

DEFINING FIRST-GENERATION STATUS: HB2855

WV House Bill 2855 would provide a state-wide definition for first-generation students that complies with the federal definition. This would help WV college students be eligible for grants, scholarships, and federal financial aid resources; allow colleges and organizations to know who their first-generation students are so they can fully support them; provide a consistent way to measure the impact of services that aim to help first-generation students; and, WV colleges and organizations can use this data to apply for funding and resources to help their first-generation students.

first2network.org



JOIN FIRST2 NETWORK

WE ARE PROPOSING THE FOLLOWING DEFINITION:

**“NO CUSTODIAL PARENT HAS COMPLETED
A BACHELOR’S DEGREE IN THE US.”**

College degrees and certifications at all levels are valuable to the WV economy and to the individuals involved. However, a federal definition of first-generation status may qualify individuals for benefits, support services, scholarships, and educational stipends. For this reason, our proposed statewide definition of first-generation status aligns with federal definitions.

First2 recommends collecting more nuanced information, since students in level 4 are at higher risk than students in level 1:*

- **LEVEL 1 :** Custodial parents attended some college but did not complete a bachelor’s degree.
- **LEVEL 2 :** Siblings attended college or completed a bachelor’s degree; custodial parents did not.
- **LEVEL 3 :** Extended family (grandparents, aunts/uncles, cousins) attended college or completed a bachelor’s degree; custodial parents or siblings did not.
- **LEVEL 4 :** No one in immediate or extended family attended or completed college.

*Darrah, M., Humbert, R., & Stewart, G. (2022). Understanding levels of first-generationness. Inside Higher Ed. <https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2022/03/02/first-gen-category-encompasses-varied-group-opinion>.



**The First2 Network is supported by the U.S. National Science Foundation
under Award Number: HRD-1834595, High Rocks Educational Corporation.**