

Colmery Opt Out Application Guide

An application for users who want to opt out of having their VA education benefits information shared with educational institutions.

Who can submit an opt out application?

Technically, anyone who visits Vets.gov can access the opt out application, but it's meant for Veterans and dependents who have Education Benefits from the VA. Users don't have to be signed in to their account to submit the opt out form.

How do users navigate to it on Vets.gov?

1. <https://www.vets.gov/education/>

More Education Benefits and Information

VR&E Benefits and Services

If you have a service-connected disability that limits your ability to work or prevents you from working, find out if you can get VR&E benefits and services—like help exploring employment options and getting more training if required.

Opt Out of Sharing VA Education Benefits Information

The Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act (also called the “Forever GI Bill”) requires us to share certain information about your eligibility and benefits with schools, unless you ask us not to. Find out how to opt out of information sharing.

2. www.vets.gov/education/gi-bill/

More GI Bill Benefits

Yellow Ribbon Program

Find out if your school participates in the Yellow Ribbon Program, which can help pay tuition costs that the Post-9/11 GI Bill doesn't cover.

Tuition Assistance Top-Up

If your college tuition costs more than what's covered by the Tuition Assistance program, find out if you can get more money to cover tuition costs.

\$600 Buy-Up Program

Find out how you can get more money each month through your GI Bill monthly payments.

Tutorial Assistance

If you're using VA educational benefits and you're struggling with the coursework, find out if you can get help paying for a tutor.

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What does it look like, and how does it work?

Page 1 - Introduction: Before starting the application, users read through a set of questions to help them understand what they are opting out of.

Opt Out of Sharing VA Education Benefits Information

The Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act (also called the “Forever GI Bill”) requires us to share certain information about your education eligibility and benefits with schools, unless you ask us not to (called “opting out”).

What kind of information does VA share with schools?

Unless you opt out, we share basic information about your eligibility and benefits with your school’s certifying official, including:

- Your eligibility date
- The amount of money you’re receiving for tuition and school fees
- The amount of money you get and the time you have left to use your benefits
- If you’re getting money through the Yellow Ribbon Program. [Learn about the Yellow Ribbon program.](#)
- Residence hours (your time spent in the classroom)
- Distance hours (your time spent in online classes)
- Benefit percentage (amount of education benefits based on active-duty service time)

Please note: Opting out means you’re choosing to not share your education benefits information with schools. It doesn’t mean you’re opting out of getting GI Bill education benefits.

Why does VA share this information?

It makes it easy for schools to access information about your education benefits without your having to gather benefit information or fill out forms. Schools get all the information they need straight from VA.

Will opting out affect my benefits?

No. Your education benefits will stay the same if you decide to opt out. You won’t lose any benefits. However, if you opt out, you’ll need to provide schools with your education benefits paperwork. In addition, there may be a delay with you getting reimbursed for school-related expenses.

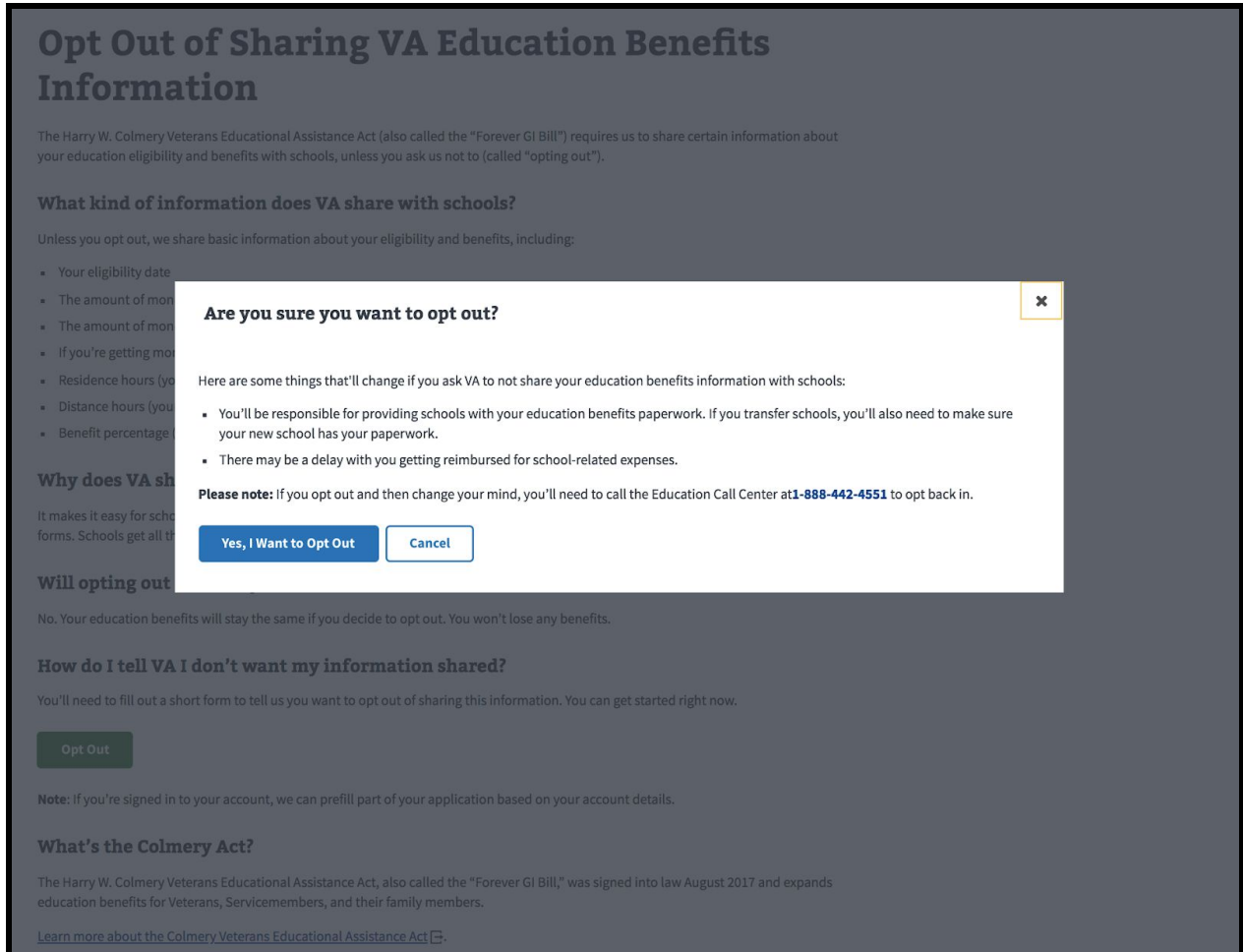
How do I tell VA I don’t want my information shared?

You’ll need to fill out a short form to tell us you want to opt out of sharing this information. You can get started right now.

[Opt Out](#)

Page 2 - 'Are you sure?' Modal:

After the user clicks the green 'Opt Out' button, a modal opens and asks the user: "Are you sure you want to opt out?"



Opt Out of Sharing VA Education Benefits Information

The Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act (also called the "Forever GI Bill") requires us to share certain information about your education eligibility and benefits with schools, unless you ask us not to (called "opting out").

What kind of information does VA share with schools?

Unless you opt out, we share basic information about your eligibility and benefits, including:

- Your eligibility date
- The amount of money you're getting
- If you're getting more than one benefit
- Residence hours (you live in)
- Distance hours (you travel to)
- Benefit percentage (if you're a dependent)

Why does VA share this information?

It makes it easy for schools to get the information they need. Schools get all the information they need to help you get the most out of your education.

Will opting out affect my education benefits?

No. Your education benefits will stay the same if you decide to opt out. You won't lose any benefits.

How do I tell VA I don't want my information shared?

You'll need to fill out a short form to tell us you want to opt out of sharing this information. You can get started right now.

[Opt Out](#)

Note: If you're signed in to your account, we can prefill part of your application based on your account details.

What's the Colmery Act?

The Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act, also called the "Forever GI Bill," was signed into law August 2017 and expands education benefits for Veterans, Servicemembers, and their family members.

[Learn more about the Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act](#)

Are you sure you want to opt out?

Here are some things that'll change if you ask VA to not share your education benefits information with schools:

- You'll be responsible for providing schools with your education benefits paperwork. If you transfer schools, you'll also need to make sure your new school has your paperwork.
- There may be a delay with you getting reimbursed for school-related expenses.

Please note: If you opt out and then change your mind, you'll need to call the Education Call Center at **1-888-442-4551** to opt back in.

[Yes, I Want to Opt Out](#) [Cancel](#)

Page 3 - Applicant Info:

Note: if the user has signed in, some of their information may be prefilled

VA Form 22-0993

1 of 2 **Applicant Information**

Your first name *(*Required)*

Your middle name

Your last name *(*Required)*

Your suffix

Your Social Security number *(*Required)*

I don't have a Social Security number

By clicking the Continue button, you're asking VA to not share your education benefits information.

[Save and finish this application later.](#)

Page 3 - Applicant Information (continued): No SSN

Note: If the user selects that they don't have a Social Security number, they are prompted to input a VA file number

Your Social Security number

I don't have a Social Security number

Your VA file number (*Required)

Page 4 - Review & Submit

Note: Users are able to edit their information from this page.

VA Form 22-0993

2 of 2 **Review Application**

Applicant Information —

[Edit](#)

Your first name **Kyle**

Your middle name

Your last name **Boo**

Your suffix

Your Social Security number **839-30-2378**

Note: According to federal law, there are criminal penalties, including a fine and/or imprisonment for up to 5 years, for withholding information or for providing incorrect information. (See 18 U.S.C. 1001)

I have read and accept the [privacy policy](#) *

[« Back](#) [✓ Submitted](#)

[Save and finish this application later.](#)

Opt Out of Sharing VA Education Benefits Information

VA Form 22-0993

Your opt-out form has been submitted

We may contact you if we have questions or need more information. You can print this page for your records.

What happens after I submit my opt-out form?

After we receive your request, it may take us up to a week to remove schools' access to your education benefits information.

What should I do if I change my mind and no longer want to opt out?

You'll need to call the Education Call Center at [1-888-442-4551](tel:1-888-442-4551), Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (ET), to ask VA to start sharing your education benefits information again.

If I've opted out, what type of information do I need to give my school?

You'll need to provide your school with a copy of your education benefits paperwork. If you transfer schools, you'll also need to make sure your new school has your paperwork.

Opt Out of Sharing VA Education Benefits Information

for Kyle Boo

Confirmation number

V-EBC-216

Date submitted

July 24, 2018

What error messages might a user see?

Required Response

First name (*Required)

Please provide a response

Privacy Policy

I have read and accept the [privacy policy](#) *

You must accept the privacy policy before continuing

« Back

Submit Application

Missing Information

! We're sorry. Some information in your application is missing or not valid.

Please check each section of your application to make sure you've filled out all the information that is required.

Submission Failure

! We're sorry, the application didn't go through.

We're working to fix the problem, but it may take us a little while. Please [save your application](#), and try submitting it again tomorrow.

If you don't have an account, you'll have to start over. Please try submitting your application again tomorrow.

If it still doesn't work, please call the Vets.gov Help Desk at [1-855-574-7286](tel:1-855-574-7286), TTY: [1-800-877-8339](tel:1-800-877-8339). We're here Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. (ET).