

Nevada System of Higher Education

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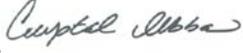


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MEMORANDUM

TO: Dan Schwartz, Nevada State Treasurer
Dale Erquiaga, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Nevada School District Superintendents
Patrick Gavin, Director, State Public Charter School Authority

CC: Chancellor Daniel J. Klaich
Linda English, Executive Director, Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship Program
Grant Hewitt, Chief of Staff, Office of the State Treasurer

FROM: Crystal Abba, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs 

DATE: June 17, 2015

RE: Millennium Scholarship – Eligibility Changes under Assembly Bill 150 and Revised Credit Requirements under Senate Bill 128

As you may be aware, the 2015 Nevada Legislature passed two measures that impact the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship. [Assembly Bill 150](#) (Chapter 207, *Statutes of Nevada 2015*), which revises certain provisions governing the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship Program. Under existing law, a student must maintain a certain grade point average (GPA) based on his or her year of graduation to be eligible for the Millennium Scholarship. Assembly Bill 150 extends eligibility to students who do not meet the minimum GPA requirements, but who receive a certain score on a college entrance examination administered to the student while he or she was enrolled in a Nevada public or private high school. The bill requires the Nevada Board of Regents to establish the score requirements.

At its June 11-12, 2015, meeting, the Board of Regents adopted a policy revision to establish the score requirements and specified that this provision will apply to the high school graduating classes of 2016 and later (attached). Following are the scores adopted under this policy:

- An enhanced ACT composite score of 21 or higher; or
- A combined (reading and math) SAT score of 990.

These scores are consistent with existing scores for students who are homeschooled or who graduated from a high school in another state but whose parents qualify as Nevada residents. This policy revision will be codified under *Title 4, Chapter 18, Section 9* of the *Handbook* within the next few months.

In addition, the 2015 Legislature passed [Senate Bill 128](#) (Chapter 373, *Statutes of Nevada 2015*), which increases from 6 to 9 the minimum number of credit hours in which a community college student must be enrolled in order to be eligible for the Millennium Scholarship. The measure also increases the amount a student may receive for a semester from not more than the cost of 12 semester credits to 15 semester credits. The Board of Regents also adopted policy revisions at its June meeting under *Title 4, Chapter 18, Section 9* of the *Handbook* to reflect these changes (attached). I am assuming that the Treasurer's Office will make the necessary modifications to its data system to accommodate these changes.

Please do not hesitate to forward this memorandum to other parties who may have an interest in this change in policy. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at crystal_abba@nshe.nevada.edu or at 775-794-4901.

BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER
Handbook Revision, Millennium Scholarship Eligibility

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 396.930 establishes the eligibility requirements for the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship and sets forth the related duties and powers of the Board of Regents. Existing Board policy under *Title 4, Chapter 18, Section 9* (Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship: Policy and Procedures) reflects NRS 396.930 and establishes related provisions.

The 2015 Legislature passed Assembly Bill 150, which extends eligibility for the Millennium Scholarship to students who do not meet the minimum grade point average requirement, but who receive a certain score on a college entrance examination administered to the student while the student was enrolled as a pupil in a public or private high school in this State. This bill requires the Board of Regents to establish such score requirements.

Existing Board policy governing eligibility for graduates of a Nevada high school includes only the minimum grade point average (GPA) requirement. Minimum GPA requirements for eligibility are also included in Board policy for homeschool students (in certain circumstances where they have taken courses in high school) and for students who graduated from a high school in another state but whose family members are Nevada residents. Unlike Nevada high school graduates, in addition to meeting the minimum GPA requirements, these students must also receive an enhanced ACT composite score of 21 or higher or a combined (reading and math) SAT score of 990 or higher. The current ACT/SAT requirement for students who graduate in another state (but whose parents are Nevada residents) is intended as a substitute for the elimination of the High School Proficiency Examination in 2017. The ACT/SAT requirement for homeschool students has been in place since the program's inception.

System staff recommends amending Board policy consistent with the provisions of A.B. 150 to extend eligibility for the Millennium Scholarship to all students who do not meet the minimum GPA requirement, but who receive an enhanced ACT composite score of 21 or higher or a combined (reading and math) SAT score of 990 or higher. These students must still meet other eligibility requirements, including high school core curriculum requirements.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Amend *Title 4, Chapter 18, Section 9* of the Handbook to align with A.B. 150 passed by the 2015 Legislature and extend eligibility for the Millennium Scholarship to all students who do not meet the minimum grade point average requirement, but who receive an enhanced ACT composite score of 21 or higher or a combined (reading and math) SAT score of 990 while the student was enrolled in or would have been enrolled in (i.e. homeschool students) high school. (See attached policy proposal.)

IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

This proposal is brought forward to revise Board policy regarding Millennium Scholarship eligibility in response to A.B. 150, which was passed by the 2015 Legislature and is effective on July 1, 2015.

BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- This policy revision is required for Board policy to remain consistent with State law.
- Adoption of the revised policy will facilitate application of the new State law in determining eligibility at the high school level for counselors, students and parents and by the Treasurer's Office.

POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

None have been presented at this time.

ALTERNATIVE(S) TO WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED/RECOMMENDED:

None have been presented at this time.

COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # _____ Chapter # _____ Section # _____
- Amends Current Board Policy: Title # 4 Chapter # 18 Section # 9.1, 9.2, 9.3 and new 9.4
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # _____ Section # _____
- Other: _____

Fiscal Impact: Yes _____ No X _____
Explain: This change will have no fiscal impact on NSHE. The revised eligibility criteria may result in a fiscal impact on the Millennium Scholarship trust Fund and that impact cannot be determined at this time.

POLICY PROPOSAL

TITLE 4, CHAPTER 18, Sections 9.1, 9.2, 9.3 and *new* SECTION 9.4 Millennium Scholarship – Eligibility Requirements

Additions appear in *boldface italics*; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

9.1 Eligibility requirements for Nevada high school graduates.

- 9.1.1 To be eligible for a Millennium Scholarship, a student must meet all of the following requirements:
- a. Graduate¹ with a diploma from a public or private high school in Nevada after May 1, 2000²;
 - b. ***Except as otherwise provided in Section 9.4, complete*** [~~Complete~~] high school, with at least a:
 1. 3.00 weighted or unweighted grade-point average on a 4.0 grading scale, if the student graduated prior to the graduating class of 2005;
 2. 3.10 weighted or unweighted grade-point average on a 4.0 grading scale, if the student was a member of the graduating class of 2005 or 2006; or
 3. 3.25 weighted or unweighted grade-point average on a 4.0 grading scale, if the student was a member of the graduating class of 2007 or a later graduating class.
 - c. Pass all areas of the Nevada High School Proficiency Examination, if the student graduated prior to the graduating class of 2017; and
 - d. Have been a resident of Nevada for at least two years of high school.

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9.2 Eligibility requirements for students who are not high school graduates.

- 9.2.1 To be eligible for a Millennium Scholarship, a student who is not a high school graduate must meet all of the following requirements:
- a. Would have graduated from high school after May 1, 2000 had the student been enrolled in high school;
 - b. Receive an enhanced ACT composite score of 21 or higher or a combined (reading and math) SAT score of 990 or higher;
 - c. ***Except as otherwise provided in Section 9.4, achieve*** [~~Achieve~~] at least the following grade point average in all courses completed in a Nevada high school as defined in section 9.1.2:
 1. 3.00 weighted or unweighted grade-point average on a 4.0 grading scale, if the student graduated prior to the graduating class of 2005;
 2. 3.10 weighted or unweighted grade-point average on a 4.0 grading scale, if the student was a member of the graduating class of 2005 or 2006; or
 3. 3.25 weighted or unweighted grade-point average on a 4.0 grading scale, if the student was a member of the graduating class of 2007 or a later graduating class.
 - d. Pass all areas of the Nevada High School Proficiency Examination, if the student would have graduated from high school prior to the graduating class of 2017 had the student been enrolled in high school; and
 - e. Have been a resident of Nevada for at least two years of the normal years of high school attendance.

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9.3 Eligibility requirements for students whose family or legal guardian is a resident of the State of Nevada and who graduate from high school out-of-state.

¹ Students who graduate with a diploma from a program for adult learners are eligible for the Millennium Scholarship if they (1) received their high school diploma within four years of the regularly scheduled graduation date of their class, and (2) meet the remaining conditions of 9.1.1.

² Students who graduate with the class of 2000 are eligible for a Millennium Scholarship regardless of when they completed their high school course work.

- 9.3.1 To be eligible for a Millennium Scholarship, a student who is not a Nevada high school graduate, but whose family or legal guardian is a resident of the State of Nevada, must meet all of the following requirements:
- a. Graduate with a diploma from a public or private high school after May 1, 2000;
 - b. Receive an enhanced ACT composite score of 21 or higher or a combined (reading and math) SAT score of 990 or higher if the student was a member of the graduating class of 2017 or a later graduating class;
 - c. ***Except as otherwise provided in Section 9.4, complete*** [Complete] high school, with at least a:
 1. 3.00 weighted or unweighted grade-point average on a 4.0 grading scale, if the student graduated prior to the graduating class of 2005;
 2. 3.10 weighted or unweighted grade-point average on a 4.0 grading scale, if the student was a member of the graduating class of 2005 or 2006; or
 3. 3.25 weighted or unweighted grade-point average on a 4.0 grading scale, if the student was a member of the graduating class of 2007 or a later graduating class, and;
 - d. Pass all areas of the Nevada High School Proficiency Examination if the student graduated from high school prior to the graduating class of 2017, and
 - e. Establish residency by:
 1. Providing evidence that a parent has been a resident of the State of Nevada for the last two years of the student's high school attendance and verifying financial dependence on the parent; or
 2. Providing evidence that a parent who is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, on active duty, and stationed outside Nevada as a result of a permanent change of duty station pursuant to military orders, was a resident of the State of Nevada for the last two years of the student's high school attendance and verifying financial dependence on the parent.

Section 9.4 Eligibility requirements for students who do not satisfy the minimum grade point average requirements under Sections 9.1, 9.2, or 9.3

A student who does not satisfy the minimum grade point average requirements under Sections 9.1, 9.2, or 9.3 is eligible for the Millennium Scholarship if the student:

- a. ***Was a member of the graduating class of 2016 or a later graduating class;***
- b. ***Receives an enhanced ACT composite score of 21 or higher or a combined (reading and math) SAT score of 990 and the examination was administered while the student:***
 1. ***Was enrolled in a public or private high school if the student is applying for the Millennium Scholarship under Sections 9.1 or 9.3; or***
 2. ***Would have been enrolled in high school if the student is applying for the Millennium Scholarship under Section 9.2; and***
- c. ***Meets all other eligibility requirements applicable to the student under Section 9.1, 9.2, or 9.3.***

RENUMBER SECTIONS 9.4 THROUGH 9.21 AS 9.4 THROUGH 9.22

BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER
Millennium Scholarship – Credit Requirements

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 396.930 establishes the eligibility requirements for the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship, including minimum credit loads, and sets forth the related duties and powers of the Board of Regents. In addition, NRS 396.934 sets forth the maximum number of credits for which a student may receive an award under the Millennium Scholarship. Existing Board policy under *Title 4, Chapter 18, Section 9* (Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship: Policy and Procedures) reflects NRS 396.930 and 396.934 and establishes related provisions.

The 2015 Legislature passed [Senate Bill 128](#), which increases from 6 to 9 the minimum number of credit hours in which a community college student must be enrolled in order to be eligible for the Millennium Scholarship. This bill also increases the amount a student may receive from a Millennium Scholarship for a semester from not more than the cost of 12 semester credits to 15 semester credits.

Senate Bill 128 is based on the recommendation of the Nevada System of Higher Education in support of the Board of Regents' completion agenda and its "15 to Finish" campaign that encourages students to enroll full-time and graduate on time.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

To comply with the provisions of Senate Bill 128, amend *Title 4, Chapter 18, Section 9.5* of the *Handbook* to increase from 6 to 12 the minimum number of semester credits a student must enroll in at an eligible community college in order to receive a Millennium Scholarship. In addition, Amend *Title 4, Chapter 18, Section 9.10* to provide that total semester disbursements under the Millennium Scholarship shall not exceed the cost of 15 credits per semester. (See attached policy proposal.)

IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

This proposal is brought forward to revise Board policy regarding the Millennium Scholarship in response to the passage of Senate Bill 128, which was passed by the 2015 Legislature and is effective on July 1, 2015.

BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- This policy revision supports the Board's completion agenda and its "15 to Finish" campaign that encourages students to enroll full-time and graduate on time.
- This policy revision is required for Board policy to remain consistent with State law.
- Adoption of the revised policy will facilitate application of the new State law in determining eligibility and making the appropriate disbursements at the institutional level and by the Treasurer's Office.

POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

None have been presented at this time.

ALTERNATIVE(S) TO WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED/RECOMMENDED:

None have been presented at this time.

COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # _____ Chapter # _____ Section # _____

Amends Current Board Policy: Title # 4 Chapter # 18 Section # 9.5 and 9.10

Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # _____ Section # _____

Other: _____

Fiscal Impact: Yes _____ No X

Explain: There is no fiscal impact on the NSHE or its institutions, but the statutory changes from S.B. 128 will increase disbursements from the Millennium Scholarship Trust Fund by approximately \$5 million to \$6.5 million per fiscal year.

POLICY PROPOSAL
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 18, SECTION 9.5
Millennium Scholarship – Minimum Semester Credits for
Community College Students
Effective July 1, 2015

Additions appear in *boldface italics*; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

9.5 A Nevada resident who meets the requirements set forth in section 9.1, 9.2 or 9.3 shall receive a Millennium Scholarship if the student:

- a. Enrolls in at least **9** [~~6~~] semester credits at an eligible community college or 12 semester credits at another eligible institution; and
- b. Enrolls in a program of study leading to a recognized associate degree, baccalaureate degree, or pre-baccalaureate certificate.

Credits taken at another eligible institution to meet degree requirements at the student's home institution shall count towards the requirement of 9.5(a) provided the student enrolls in at least 12 credits.

“Home institution” means the institution at which the student is enrolled in a program of study leading to a recognized degree or certificate.

POLICY PROPOSAL
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 18, SECTION 9.10
Millennium Scholarship – Maximum Amount and Number of Credits
Effective July 1, 2015

Additions appear in *boldface italics*; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

- 9.10 **The maximum amount of a Millennium Scholarship award each semester or Summer term is determined on a dollars-per-credit enrolled basis as set by the State of Nevada⁵.**
- a. Total semester disbursements shall not exceed the cost of ***15*** [~~12~~] credits per semester across all eligible institutions based on dollar-per-credit rates set by the State of Nevada for the Millennium Scholarship.
 - b. Millennium funds cannot be used to pay for remedial/developmental courses defined as any course with a course number less than 100.

⁵ The dollars per credit hour as set by the State of Nevada are: (a) \$40 per enrolled credit in each lower-division course and \$60 per enrolled credit in each upper division course for students attending a NSHE community college, (b) \$60 per enrolled credit for students attending a NSHE state college, and (c) \$80 per enrolled credit for students attending another eligible institution.