

September 6, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Regents
FROM: David L. Buhler
SUBJECT: Regents' Scholarship Changes for 2019 Graduates and Beyond

Issue

In 2017, the Utah Legislature enacted *S.B.256: Regents' Scholarship Amendments*, sponsored by Senator Lyle Hillyard. The legislation enables the Board to make needed adjustments to simplify the administration of the scholarship and to help ensure long-term sustainability of the program. Approved changes will be in effect starting with the high school graduating class of 2019.

Background


The Utah Legislature created the Regents' Scholarship in 2008. The mission of the scholarship is to encourage Utah high school students to prepare for college academically and financially by taking a challenging college preparatory course of study during grades 9-12. There has been immense success with the program. Regents' Scholarship program highlights include:

- Encouraging the implementation of rigorous courses, such as physics, in schools throughout the state.
- Awarding over 14,000 scholarships from 2008-2016 with another 4,500+ awards anticipated for the 2017 cohort.
- To date, over \$42 million has been provided to students attending colleges in Utah.
- 75.3% of students who earned the award as part of the 2009 scholarship cohort have graduated from college within six years (data based on those attending USHE institutions only).

The passage of *S.B.256: Regents' Scholarship Amendments*, enables several key changes that will streamline the student experience of the application process, improve coordination of other aid and scholarship opportunities and simplify the scholarship requirements. The mission of the Regents' Scholarship to help high school students become college ready remains intact while adding an emphasis on addressing college affordability and access. The proposed updates to the scholarship will enable institutional financial aid services to better assist students in leveraging all of their financial aid opportunities.

The Program Review Committee (PRC) of the Board of Regents considered the legislated changes to the Regents' Scholarship and their proposed implementation during their meeting on June 14, 2017. The PRC's suggestions for change were incorporated during the development of the recommendation under consideration today.

The new requirements will be effective starting with the high school graduating class of 2019. Students who graduate in 2018 or prior will not be impacted by the changes made through the legislation. The following table summarizes the proposed requirements:

	
Proposed Requirements New requirements begin for the high school graduates of 2019	
Goals of New Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability • Simplification • Streamlining and consolidating aid packaging
Basics To Qualify	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the required college preparation course of study during grades 9-12 (4 credits of English, 4 credits of Math, 3.5 credits of social science, 3 credits of science and 2 credits of world language) • 3.3 minimum high school GPA • 22 ACT • Complete the FAFSA • Meet all application deadlines
Award Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional dollars may be awarded to those who demonstrate the need for financial assistance through the FAFSA application. In such cases the student will be expected to meet the renewal requirements in order to continue participating in the program • Institutions will assist in distribution of awards and aid packaging to maximize aid opportunities for eligible students • Subject to available funds, students may be eligible for a UESP Supplemental Award • Students cannot receive <u>both</u> New Century and the Regents' Scholarship
Renewal Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students must enroll in and successfully complete 15 credits • Earn a 3.3 GPA each semester that the scholarship is utilized

Commissioner's Recommendation

The Commissioner recommends the Board approve the proposed programmatic changes to the Regents' Scholarship as outlined above so that revisions in Regents' Policy 609, *Regents' Scholarship*, can be developed for consideration during the Regents' November 2017 meeting.

David L. Buhler
Commissioner of Higher Education

DLB/CFB/JHM/EH/SJ