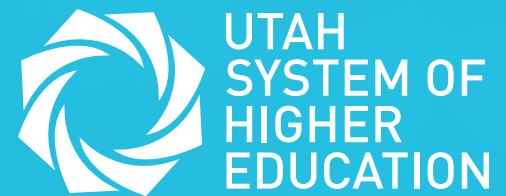


The background of the slide features a close-up, slightly out-of-focus image of a black graduation cap with a gold tassel. A large, semi-transparent blue rectangle is overlaid on the right side of the image, serving as a backdrop for the text and logo.

State Scholarship Redesign Task Force Report

September 2019



New Century Scholarship

Intended to encourage Utah high school students to accelerate their education by earning an associate degree in high school or by completing a specific math and science curriculum.

New Century Scholarship

Pros

- Encourages students to take Concurrent Enrollment courses during high school to experience college-level coursework

Cons

- Concurrent enrollment is already a type of scholarship (only \$5 per credit)
- Recipients have excessive general education credits, rarely complete a baccalaureate degree on time, and can exceed credit limits for federal financial aid.

Regents' Scholarship

Designed in 2008 to improve college readiness by requiring a specific high school curriculum demonstrated to improve performance on ACT tests and in college general education courses.

Regents' Scholarship

Pros

- Required HS curriculum means recipients are better prepared for college and less likely to need remedial education.
- Recipients complete college at much higher rates than their peers and with higher GPAs.

Cons

- Specific course requirements are more difficult to meet than the simpler ACT + GPA requirements of merit scholarships.
- Administered centrally; separate from institutional awards.

Access Utah Promise Scholarship

Designed to improve college access and affordability

Promise Scholarship

Pros

- Available to a wider range of students than high school-focused college prep or merit scholarships: traditional age & returning adults.

Cons

- Currently structured as a last-dollar scholarship toward tuition and fees after all other state and federal aid. Students may still be unable to afford cost of attendance (books, etc.).



Task Force Recommendations

New Century

- Eliminate in its current form, as it does not achieve its purpose of accelerating student progress to a bachelor's degree.
- Move funds to the Access Utah Promise Scholarship.

Regents' Scholarship

- Change program to reward merit (based on ACT and high school GPA) rather than a specified college preparatory high school curriculum.
- Administer through institutional financial aid offices rather than the Office of the Commissioner.
- Shift a minimum of 50% of funds to the Access Utah Promise Scholarship (after grandfathering in current cohorts).

Access Utah Promise

- Expand the program with Regents' and New Century Scholarship dollars.
- Retain “last dollar after all other state aid” design; work with sponsor to allow federal aid to stack on top of state aid.

All State Scholarships

- Require data reporting to the Board to assess the effectiveness of scholarship programs in meeting their stated purposes and allow the Board to adjust the programs appropriately.