



Nevada Promise Scholarship Annual Report

NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION
JULY 26, 2021

The Nevada System of Higher Education

Board of Regents

Mrs. Cathy McAdoo, Chair

Dr. Patrick R. Carter, Vice Chair

Mr. Joseph C. Arrascada

Mr. Patrick J. Boylan

Mr. Byron Brooks

Ms. Amy J. Carvalho

Mrs. Carol Del Carlo

Dr. Mark W. Doubrava

Dr. Jason Geddes

Mr. Donald Sylvantee McMichael Sr.

Mr. John T. Moran

Ms. Laura E. Perkins

Dr. Lois Tarkanian

Ms. Keri Nikolajewski, Interim Chief of Staff

Officers of the Nevada System of Higher Education

Dr. Melody Rose, Chancellor

Dr. Keith Whitfield, President

Mr. Brian Sandoval, President

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

University of Nevada, Reno

Ms. Vickie Rutledge Shields, President

Dr. Federico Zaragoza, President

Nevada State College

College of Southern Nevada

Ms. Joyce M. Helens, President

Dr. Karin M. Hilgersom, President

Great Basin College

Truckee Meadows Community College

Dr. Vincent R. Solis, President

Dr. Kumud Acharya, President

Western Nevada College

Desert Research Institute

The Nevada Promise Scholarship Program

CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
REPORTING REQUIREMENT	5
BACKGROUND	5
INITIAL ELIGIBILITY	6
CONTINUING ELIGIBILITY	7
PROGRAM APPLICANTS	7
TABLE 1: PROGRAM APPLICANTS - YEARS 1-3.....	7
COMMUNITY SERVICE	8
TABLE 2: COMMUNITY SERVICE Hours PERFORMED BY NPS APPLICANTS - YEARS 1-3	8
HOW THE AWARD IS CALCULATED	8
RECIPIENTS FOR YEARS 1-3 (2018-19 TO 2020-21).....	9
TABLE 3: NPS AWARDS – YEARS 1-3.....	9
TABLE 4: NEVADA PROMISE SCHOLARHIP RECIPIENTS BY INCOME LEVEL (2018-19).....	10
TABLE 5: NEVADA PROMISE SCHOLARHIP RECIPIENTS BY INCOME LEVEL (2019-20).....	10
TABLE 6: NEVADA PROMISE SCHOLARHIP RECIPIENTS BY INCOME LEVEL (2020-21).....	11
TABLE 7: NEVADA PROMISE SCHOLARHIP RECIPIENTS BY RACE/ETHNICITY (2018-19).....	11
TABLE 8: NEVADA PROMISE SCHOLARHIP RECIPIENTS BY RACE/ETHNICITY (2019-20).....	12
TABLE 9: NEVADA PROMISE SCHOLARHIP RECIPIENTS BY RACE/ETHNICITY (2020-21).....	12
SCHOLARSHIP RETENTION AND GRADUATION RATES OF NPS RECIPIENTS	12
TABLE 10: SCHOLARSHIP RETENTION RATES OF NPS RECIPIENTS - YEARS 2-3	12
TABLE 11: GRADUATION RATE OF NPS RECIPIENTS - YEARS 1-2.....	13
CONCLUSION	13
APPENDIX.....	14
NEVADA REVISED STATUTES – NEVADA PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM	14
BOARD OF REGENTS POLICY/NSHE PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES MANUAL – NEVADA PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM	20
SENATE BILL 347 (CHAPTER 542, STATUTES OF NEVADA 2021) – SELECTED SECTIONS	28

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Nevada Promise Scholarship (NPS) is a state-supported financial aid program established by the Nevada State Legislature for Nevada high school graduates to attend community college at a substantially reduced cost. As a last-dollar scholarship, the NPS covers up to three years of the base registration and certain other mandatory fees not covered by other state and federal aid received by the student. As of Fall 2020, there were 16 states in addition to Nevada providing “Promise” programs: Arkansas, California, Delaware, Hawaii, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New York, Nevada, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee, and Washington.

The NPS program is modeled after other state-funded “Promise” programs, such as the Tennessee Promise, although these programs vary state by state in their requirements and funding models. Its premise is similar to other programs in that the NPS operates on a last-dollar model, funding only the remainder of base registration and certain other mandatory fees after other forms of gift aid (state and federal financial aid) are applied. Similar to other Promise programs, students must meet additional eligibility requirements. For NPS this includes enrollment in 12 credits each fall and spring semester immediately following high school graduation, completion of community service hours, and meetings with a community mentor.

Over the first three years of the program, a growing number of students received financial assistance from NPS, with 812 students receiving awards in Year One, 1130 students in Year Two, and 1395 in Year Three. Since NPS requires applicants to submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) if eligible to do so, income information is available for most recipients. Data reported by recipients on the FAFSA demonstrate that NPS awards skew toward middle- and higher-income students. For example, the median family income for dependent students who received an NPS award in Year Three was \$101,402. Each subsequent year has shown a diminishing percentage of low-income NPS recipients. Only 3.1 percent, 2.7 percent, and 2.3 percent of students reported a family income of less than \$50,000 per annum in Years One, Two, and Three, respectively. It is also notable that unlike general patterns seen in need-based aid, the distribution of NPS recipients by race and ethnicity does not consistently mirror that of the wider campus population. Whereas in Year One the distributions are similar, in Years Two and Three students who identify as part of a minority race or ethnicity are underrepresented compared to the overall student population at some participating institutions.

Finally, in terms of student success measures, data are not yet available to report graduation rates in common time increments such as 150% of degree time frame. Nevertheless, 21.9% of Fall 2018 first-time NPS recipients earned a degree or certificate as of Spring 2020. In addition, the Scholarship Retention Rate is 32.9% in Year Two and 41% in Year Three. This rate measures the percentage of NPS recipients who have not graduated with an Associate Degree or higher and continued to receive an NPS award from one year to the next.

REPORTING REQUIREMENT

This report is written to satisfy the reporting requirements outlined in *Nevada Revised Statutes* 396.9685. Accordingly, information is provided on the number of applicants in the program and community service hours completed. The remainder of the report focuses on metrics regarding recipients of awards, including the total cost associated with awards of NPS, cohort graduation rates for students who received a scholarship, and the scholarship retention rate as defined in NRS. Additional information on recipients has also been provided for context, namely income level and race/ethnicity. Henceforth, this report will be issued annually.

BACKGROUND

The Nevada Promise Scholarship (NPS) is a state-supported financial aid program created during the 2017 Session of the Nevada State Legislature pursuant to [Senate Bill 391](#) (Chapter 461, *Statutes of Nevada 2017*). The NPS provides funds to cover up to three years of registration and certain other mandatory fees to eligible students at a Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) community college after other forms of gift aid have been applied, including the state-supported Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship and Silver State Opportunity Grant, and federal aid such as the Pell Grant. The NPS aims to ensure all Nevada graduating seniors, regardless of income or high school academic performance, can attend an NSHE community college with financial assistance. Program requirements are designed to reduce costs to the state by requiring applicants to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in order to leverage available federal aid. Participants must also meet with mentors, complete a certain number of community service hours, and attend informational meetings, including a campus orientation.

In 2019 the Nevada State Legislature approved [Senate Bill 350](#) (Chapter 218, *Statutes of Nevada 2019*), which transferred administration of the NPS program from NSHE's individual community colleges to the Board of Regents. This change helped establish state-wide consistency across institutions and provided the flexibility necessary to effectively implement the program. This bill also made several revisions to student eligibility requirements, including:

- Reducing the number of community service hours required from participants and revising when such community service must be completed;
- Combining the requirements to attend separate training and orientation meetings into a single meeting requirement;
- Removing the requirement for students to submit yearly renewal applications;
- Waiving the 12-credit requirement during a student's last semester prior to graduation; and
- Extending program eligibility to students prohibited by federal law from completing the FAFSA.

Further, Senate Bill 350 created an awarding priority whereby students eligible to submit the FAFSA would be awarded first, while students prohibited by federal law from completing the FAFSA would be awarded only if funds remained. However, this awarding priority was eliminated in 2021 with the Legislature's approval of [Senate Bill 347](#) (Chapter 542, *Statutes of Nevada 2021*).

INITIAL ELIGIBILITY

The NPS program requires applicants to complete several steps beginning in their senior year of high school to be eligible for an NPS award. Students must submit the NPS application and complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), or an alternative form for those prohibited by federal law from completing the FAFSA. By requiring FAFSA completion for students who are eligible to do so, the state reduces the cost of the program by leveraging federal and state financial aid to the greatest extent possible. Participants are also required to give back to the community through mandatory community service, attend a training session, and meet with an assigned mentor.

Eligible institutions are the four Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) community colleges:

- College of Southern Nevada (CSN);
- Great Basin College (GBC);
- Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC); and
- Western Nevada College (WNC).

To be eligible for an NPS award, a student must attend an eligible institution and:

- Be classified as a Nevada Resident for tuition purposes;
- Must not have previously completed an associate degree or bachelor's degree;
- Must have:
 - Obtained a diploma from a public or private high school located in Nevada;
 - Obtained a diploma from a public high school located in a county that borders Nevada and accepts students who are residents of Nevada; or
 - Successfully completed the high school equivalency assessment selected by the State Board of Education pursuant to NRS 390.055 before 20 years of age;
- Complete the NPS application;
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), or if the student is prohibited by law from completing the FAFSA, complete an alternative form provided by the community college;
- Before enrolling in a community college, participate in one training meeting related to financial aid, the FAFSA, and college orientation;
- Meet at least once with a mentor assigned to the student before the first semester of enrollment and at least twice during each academic year while in the program;
- Complete at least eight hours of community service during the last year of high school;

- Submit all information deemed necessary by the community college to determine the student’s eligibility for gift aid;
- Enroll in at least 12 credit hours that apply to the student’s chosen program of study, with an exception for lower enrollment provided for the last semester if fewer than 12 credits are required to graduate;
- Meet institutional Title IV Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements; and
- Have not already received the scholarship for three (3) academic years.

CONTINUING ELIGIBILITY

Students who receive an NPS award remain eligible for future semesters for up to a total of (3) three academic years, providing they continue to meet Title IV Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements and enroll in at least 12 credits. An exception to the credit requirement is provided in a student’s last semester if fewer than 12 credits are needed to graduate. Students become ineligible for the NPS program upon obtaining their first associate or bachelor’s degree. Students must also meet with a mentor at least once and complete a minimum of eight hours of community service each fall and spring semester. The FAFSA, or an alternative form if the student is prohibited from completing the FAFSA, must be completed every year of program participation to maintain eligibility.

PROGRAM APPLICANTS

High school students must complete the NPS application on or before October 31 of their senior year. As part of the application, students designate the participating institution they plan to attend.

TABLE 1: PROGRAM APPLICANTS - YEARS 1-3

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
CSN	9,085	10,431	9,901
GBC	357	402	518
TMCC	1,780	1,889	2,169
WNC	644	808	1,114
Total	11,866	13,530	13,702

Note: Figures only include new program applicants. Renewal applications which were only required during the 2019-20 year are excluded.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Community service is required for initial and continuing eligibility for NPS recipients. For Year One (2018-19) applicants were required to complete 20 hours of community service prior to receiving an award, and 20 additional hours each year to maintain eligibility. In subsequent years, [Senate Bill 350](#) (Chapter 218, *Statutes of Nevada 2019*), reduced the number of community service hours to be completed during high school to 8, and 8 per semester thereafter.

TABLE 2: COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS PERFORMED BY NPS APPLICANTS - YEARS 1-3

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
CSN	91,461	23,502	22,832
GBC	3,355	3,677	2,178
TMCC	27,140	13,980	10,321
WNC	10,368	5,647	4,179
Total	132,324	46,806	39,510

Note: Year 2018-2019 data include all community service hours performed by applicants prior to the first year of the program.

HOW THE AWARD IS CALCULATED

As a last-dollar program, the NPS award is calculated by subtracting gift aid for which the student is eligible from the total amount of registration and certain other mandatory fees.

- Gift aid is defined in state law as funds from the Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG), Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship (GGMS), and Silver State Opportunity Grant (SSOG).
- The registration and mandatory fees eligible under NPS are defined by *Nevada Revised Statute 396.9634* as the “registration fee assessed per credit and mandatory fees assessed per credit that are approved by the Board of Regents and charged to all students by a community college. The term does not include special course fees or fees charged for specific programs of study, books or supplies even if such fees are considered necessary for enrollment.”

An otherwise eligible student who receives enough gift aid to cover registration and other mandatory fees covered by the program is not eligible for an award under the NPS program. The last dollar awarding model of the NPS program keeps state expenditures relatively low and allows for limited funds to reach more participants. This approach, however, prevents most low-income students from receiving NPS awards. Many of the most financially needy students already receive gift aid from federal or state sources and are therefore not eligible for NPS awards, even if they meet all other program requirements. As there is no income limit to program participation, middle- and high-income students who neither qualify for state and federal need-based aid nor

for aid under the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship (GGMS) or Silver State Opportunity Grant (SSOG) receive the most funding from NPS.

RECIPIENTS FOR YEARS 1-3 (2018-19 TO 2020-21)

Academic Year 2018-19 marked the initial period during which NPS awards were made. Table 3 indicates the number of students awarded and the dollars awarded by institution for the first three award years of the program.

Due to COVID-19 related budget cuts under [Assembly Bill 3](#) (Chapter 5, *Statutes of Nevada 2020*), in Spring 2021 the NPS account did not have sufficient funds to cover the base registration and certain other mandatory fees for all 2020-21 participants already awarded. To prevent a mid-year reduction in NPS award amounts, the NSHE community colleges used institutional financial aid dollars to cover the gap in state funding of \$346,516.16. Institutional funds are not included in the figures included in Tables 3-6.

TABLE 3: NPS AWARDS – YEARS 1-3							
	Total Dollars Awarded			Number of Students Awarded			
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	
CSN	\$994,179	\$1,219,623	\$1,298,853	CSN	466	592	670
GBC	\$194,957	\$219,036	\$315,975	GBC	68	89	127
TMCC	\$423,641	\$697,058	\$843,140	TMCC	202	333	429
WNC	\$143,834	\$250,349	\$336,189	WNC	76	116	169
Total	\$1,756,610	\$2,386,065	\$2,794,157	Total	812	1,130	1,395

Note: Dollars awarded may not add up exactly due to rounding.

Data collected from the campuses for reporting to the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs (NASSGAP) demonstrate that NPS award recipients skew toward middle- and high-income due to the last-dollar nature of the program. Tables 4 to 6 illustrate the income level of dependent and independent NPS award recipients, the number of students awarded in each income range, the dollars awarded within that range, and median recipient income.

TABLE 4: NEVADA PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS BY INCOME LEVEL (2018-19)

Dependent Students Median Income: \$96,067			Independent Students Median Income: \$204,429		
Income Range	Students	Dollars	Income Range	Students	Dollars
\$19,999 or less	4	\$5,388	\$2,999 or less	0	-
\$20,000 - \$39,999	7	\$9,566	\$3,000 - \$5,999	0	-
\$40,000 - \$49,999	14	\$11,113	\$6,000 - \$9,999	0	-
\$50,000 - \$59,999	46	\$72,438	\$10,000 - \$14,999	0	-
\$60,000 - \$79,999	185	\$376,575	\$15,000 - \$19,999	0	-
\$80,000 - \$99,999	176	\$388,363	\$20,000 - \$29,999	0	-
\$100,000 or more	378	\$887,803	\$30,000 - \$39,999	0	-
Total	810	\$1,751,246	\$40,000 - \$49,999	0	-
			\$50,000 or more	2	\$5,364
			Total	2	\$5,364

NOTE: From data reported by recipients on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Number of students is unduplicated NSHE wide

TABLE 5: NEVADA PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS BY INCOME LEVEL (2019-20)

Dependent Students Median Income: \$ 98,394			Independent Students Median Income: \$0		
Income Range	Students	Dollars	Income Range	Students	Dollars
\$19,999 or less	2	\$2,856	\$2,999 or less	2	\$3,317
\$20,000 - \$39,999	2	\$1,444	\$3,000 - \$5,999	0	-
\$40,000 - \$49,999	25	\$26,342	\$6,000 - \$9,999	0	-
\$50,000 - \$59,999	64	\$94,981	\$10,000 - \$14,999	0	-
\$60,000 - \$79,999	251	\$513,530	\$15,000 - \$19,999	0	-
\$80,000 - \$99,999	235	\$513,780	\$20,000 - \$29,999	0	-
\$100,000 or more	548	\$1,229,817	\$30,000 - \$39,999	0	-
Total	1,127	\$2,382,749	\$40,000 - \$49,999	0	-
			\$50,000 or more	0	-
			Total	2	\$3,317

NOTE: From data reported by recipients on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Number of students is unduplicated NSHE wide. In 2019-20 there was one student who received NPS funds at both CSN and TMCC. Dollars may not add up exactly due to rounding.

TABLE 6: NEVADA PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS BY INCOME LEVEL (2020-21)

Dependent Students Median Income: \$101,402			Independent Students Median Income: \$2,378		
Income Range	Students	Dollars	Income Range	Students	Dollars
\$19,999 or less	3	\$2,657	\$2,999 or less	1	\$1,774
\$20,000 - \$39,999	8	\$11,826	\$3,000 - \$5,999	0	-
\$40,000 - \$49,999	20	\$23,906	\$6,000 - \$9,999	0	-
\$50,000 - \$59,999	82	\$106,540	\$10,000 - \$14,999	0	-
\$60,000 - \$79,999	264	\$437,562	\$15,000 - \$19,999	0	-
\$80,000 - \$99,999	289	\$567,563	\$20,000 - \$29,999	0	-
\$100,000 or more	705	\$1,588,107	\$30,000 - \$39,999	0	-
			\$40,000 - \$49,999	0	-
			\$50,000 or more	0	-
Total	1,371	\$2,738,160	Total	1	\$1,774

NOTE: From data reported by recipients on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Number of students is unduplicated NSHE wide. In 2020-2021 23 students did not have a reported income range as they were prohibited by federal law from completing the FAFSA and are therefore omitted from this table. Dollars may not add up exactly due to rounding.

Unlike general patterns seen in need-based aid, the distribution of NPS recipients by race and ethnicity does not consistently mirror that of the wider campus population. Whereas in Year 1 (2018-19) the distributions are similar, in Year 2 (2019-20) and Year 3 (2020-21), students who identify as part of a minority race or ethnicity are underrepresented compared to the overall student population at some institutions. (Tables 7, 8 and 9).

TABLE 7: NEVADA PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS BY RACE/ETHNICITY (2018-19)

	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black, Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Two or More Races	White, Non-Hispanic	% Minority NPS	% Minority Inst. †
CSN	0.2%	10.8%	5.3%	40.0%	0.9%	9.0%	33.8%	66.2%	65.3%
GBC	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	25.8%	0.0%	6.1%	63.6%	36.4%	34.1%
TMCC	0.5%	3.6%	0.5%	36.0%	0.0%	5.1%	54.3%	45.7%	43.3%
WNC	1.3%	1.3%	0.0%	28.9%	1.3%	6.6%	60.5%	39.5%	35.1%

NOTE: Percentages exclude unknown race/ethnicity categories. Minority categories include all ethnicities included in the table except White, Non-Hispanic. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding

†IPEDS, Fall 2017.

TABLE 8: NEVADA PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS BY RACE/ETHNICITY (2019-20)

	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black, Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Two or More Races	White, Non-Hispanic	% Minority NPS	% Minority Inst. †
CSN	0.2%	11.1%	4.7%	39.0%	2.1%	6.1%	36.9%	63.1%	66.7%
GBC	4.5%	1.1%	0.0%	30.7%	1.1%	2.3%	60.2%	39.8%	37.8%
TMCC	1.2%	4.0%	0.0%	39.6%	0.0%	4.6%	50.6%	49.4%	44.9%
WNC	1.8%	4.5%	0.0%	24.5%	0.0%	7.3%	61.8%	38.2%	36.2%

NOTE: Percentages exclude unknown race/ethnicity categories. Minority categories include all ethnicities included in the table except White, Non-Hispanic. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding

†IPEDS, Fall 2018.

TABLE 9: NEVADA PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS BY RACE/ETHNICITY (2020-21)

	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black, Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Two or More Races	White, Non-Hispanic	% Minority NPS	% Minority Inst. †
CSN	0.3%	11.7%	4.5%	37.5%	1.3%	9.4%	35.3%	64.7%	68.7%
GBC	1.7%	0.8%	0.0%	31.4%	1.7%	0.0%	64.5%	35.5%	39.2%
TMCC	1%	3.1%	0.2%	42.2%	0.0%	6.2%	47.4%	52.6%	47.5%
WNC	0.6%	2.5%	0.6%	33.3%	0.6%	3.7%	58.6%	41.4%	36.6%

NOTE: Percentages exclude unknown race/ethnicity categories. Minority categories include all ethnicities included in the table except White, Non-Hispanic. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding

†IPEDS, Fall 2019.

SCHOLARSHIP RETENTION AND GRADUATION RATES OF NPS RECIPIENTS

“Scholarship retention rate” is defined in *Nevada Revised Statute* 396.9685 as “the percentage of students who received a scholarship for the academic year immediately preceding the academic year to which a report pursuant to Subsection 10 pertains who did not graduate by the end of that academic year and who also received a Nevada Promise Scholarship for the academic year to which the report pertains”. Scholarship retention rate is not applicable in 2018-19, as this was the first year in which NPS awards were distributed. The percentage of non-graduating recipients who maintained an NPS award year to year increased between 2019-20 to 2020-21 (Table 10).

TABLE 10: SCHOLARSHIP RETENTION RATES OF NPS RECIPIENTS - YEARS 2-3

	2019-2020	2020-2021
Scholarship Retention Rate	32.9%	41%

NOTE: Scholarship retention rate calculated as percentage of students who received a scholarship the previous academic year and did not graduate with an Associate Degree or higher who also received a scholarship for the academic year to which the report pertains.

Since 2018-19 was the first academic year of the NPS program and the latest available graduate data are as of June 2020, few award recipients have yet to graduate with a degree or certificate and no graduation rate is available yet for 2020-21. Not enough time has elapsed since program inception to report graduation rates in common time increments such as 150% of degree timeframe.

TABLE 11: GRADUATION RATE OF NPS RECIPIENTS - YEARS 1-2

	2018-2019 [†]	2019-2020 [†]
Skill Certificates	47	37
Certificates of Achievement	17	2
Associate Degrees	114	24
Bachelor’s Degrees	-	-
Earned Degree or Certificate by 6/2020	21.9%	5.6%

[†]Graduates are reported by cohort based on first semester of NPS award. Only degrees and certificates earned on or after a student’s first year of NPS award are included.

CONCLUSION

Approved by the Nevada State Legislature in 2017 with initial awards made to students during the 2018-19 Academic Year, the NPS program is the newest of the state-supported financial aid programs in the State. It joins two other programs: The Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship (1999) a merit-based program that funds students with a wide range of family income levels, and the Silver State Opportunity Grant (2015), a need-based program that deliberately targets funding to low-income students who are college ready. The NPS is neither merit nor need-based and, due to its last-dollar design, tends to benefit students in the middle- to upper-income ranges.

During 2021 Session, the Nevada State Legislature approved [SB 128](#) (Chapter 324, *Statutes of Nevada 2021*), which directs the State Treasurer to “contract with one or more qualified independent consultants to conduct a study concerning the effectiveness of publicly funded scholarship and grant programs in this State...” This study is expected to provide a comprehensive review of student outcomes for scholarship and grant recipients, an examination of administrative costs for each program, and an evaluation of short- and long-term financial viability of these publicly funded programs. As research for the study is undertaken and completed, it is expected that NSHE and the Legislature will gain a better understanding of the part played by the NPS and the two other programs in terms of serving the needs of the state’s economy and its college-age students. It is also expected that in this process more will be learned about the impact of the program on NPS award recipients and whether program requirements have a positive impact on applicants who complete all program requirements but don’t receive NPS funding due to receipt of other gift aid.

APPENDIX

Included are the relevant *Nevada Revised Statutes* and Board of Regents *Handbook* sections. Relevant sections of [Senate Bill 347](#) (Chapter 542, *Statutes of Nevada 2021*) are also included, as it revised certain provisions of NRS pertaining to the NPS program which have not yet been codified in state law.

NEVADA REVISED STATUTES – NEVADA PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

NRS 396.961 Definitions. As used in [NRS 396.961](#) to [396.9685](#), inclusive, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in [NRS 396.9615](#) to [396.9634](#), inclusive, have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.

NRS 396.9612 “Academic year” defined. “Academic year” means 2 consecutive semesters, beginning with a fall semester, and 1 summer academic term at a community college.

NRS 396.9615 “Gift aid” defined. “Gift aid” means a federal Pell grant, a Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, a Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship awarded pursuant to [NRS 396.911](#) to [396.945](#), inclusive, or a grant awarded under the Silver State Opportunity Grant Program pursuant to [NRS 396.950](#) to [396.960](#), inclusive, received by a student.

NRS 396.962 “Local partnering organization” defined. Repealed. (See chapter 218, [Statutes of Nevada 2019, at page 1219.](#))

NRS 396.9625 “Nevada Promise Scholarship” defined. “Nevada Promise Scholarship” means a scholarship awarded by the Board of Regents pursuant to [NRS 396.968](#).

NRS 396.963 “Participating community college” defined. Repealed. (See chapter 218, [Statutes of Nevada 2019, at page 1219.](#))

NRS 396.9632 “Program” defined. “Program” means the Nevada Promise Scholarship Program created by [NRS 396.965](#).

NRS 396.9634 “Registration fee and other mandatory fees” defined. “Registration fee and other mandatory fees” means a registration fee assessed per credit and mandatory fees assessed per credit that are approved by the Board of Regents and charged to all students by a community college. The term does not include special course fees or fees charged for specific programs of study, books or supplies even if such fees are considered necessary for enrollment.

NRS 396.9635 “Scholarship recipient” defined. Repealed. (See chapter 218, [Statutes of Nevada 2019, at page 1219.](#))

NRS 396.964 “School year” defined. Repealed. (See chapter 218, [Statutes of Nevada 2019, at page 1219.](#))

NRS 396.9645 Nevada Promise Scholarship Account: Creation; administration; gifts and grants; uses of money in Account.

1. The Nevada Promise Scholarship Account is hereby created in the State General Fund. The Account must be administered by the State Treasurer.

2. The interest and income earned on:

(a) The money in the Account, after deducting any applicable charges; and

(b) Unexpended appropriations made to the Account from the State General Fund, must be credited to the Account.

3. Any money remaining in the Account at the end of a fiscal year, including, without limitation, any unexpended appropriations made to the Account from the State General Fund, does not revert to the State General Fund, and the balance in the Account must be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

4. The State Treasurer may accept gifts and grants of money from any source for deposit in the Account.

5. The money in the Account may only be used to distribute money to the Board of Regents for the purpose of awarding Nevada Promise Scholarships to students who are eligible to receive such scholarships under the provisions of [NRS 396.9665](#) or for any other purpose authorized by the Legislature.

NRS 396.965 Creation and administration of Program; regulations.

1. The Nevada Promise Scholarship Program is hereby created for the purpose of awarding Nevada Promise Scholarships to eligible students to pay for the difference between the amount of the registration fee and other mandatory fees charged to a student by a community college for the academic year and the total amount of any other gift aid received by the student for the academic year.

2. The Board of Regents shall administer the Program.

3. In administering the Program, the Board of Regents shall adopt regulations governing:

(a) The procedures and standards for determining the eligibility of a student for a Nevada Promise Scholarship pursuant to [NRS 396.9665](#).

(b) An application process administered through the community colleges which allows a student to participate in the Program.

(c) Deadlines for a student to satisfy the requirements for eligibility in the Program.

(d) A training program administered through the community colleges which allows a student to satisfy the requirements of paragraph (f) of subsection 1 of [NRS 396.9665](#).

(e) A mentoring program administered through the community colleges which allows a student to satisfy the requirements of paragraph (g) of subsection 1 of [NRS 396.9665](#).

(f) The criteria for completing the community service requirements of paragraph (h) of subsection 1 of [NRS 396.9665](#).

(g) Procedures which allow a student to appeal any adverse decision concerning his or her eligibility to receive a Nevada Promise Scholarship.

(h) Procedures for a community college to accept gifts, grants and donations from any source for the purposes of carrying out its duties under the Program as prescribed by the Board of Regents.

(i) Procedures and standards for determining the eligibility of a student for financial aid if the student is prohibited by law from completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid provided for by 20 U.S.C. § 1090.

4. The Board of Regents may adopt regulations authorizing a community college to enter into an agreement with one or more nonprofit organizations or governmental entities to conduct any activities required by the Board of Regents for a training program which allows a student to satisfy the requirements of paragraph (f) of subsection 1 of [NRS 396.9665](#) and a mentoring program which allows a student to satisfy the requirements of paragraph (g) of subsection 1 of [NRS 396.9665](#).

5. The Board of Regents may adopt any other regulations necessary to carry out the Program.

NRS 396.9655 Participating community college or local partnering organization to hold certain training meetings; make-up meetings; establishment of mentoring program for scholarship applicants and recipients; maintenance and posting of list of community service opportunities. Repealed. (See chapter 218, [Statutes of Nevada 2019, at page 1219.](#))

NRS 396.966 Eligibility to serve as mentor in mentoring program. Repealed. (See chapter 218, [Statutes of Nevada 2019, at page 1219.](#))

NRS 396.9665 Eligibility to receive Nevada Promise Scholarship.

1. To be eligible to receive a Nevada Promise Scholarship, a student must:

(a) Be a bona fide resident of this State, as construed in [NRS 396.540](#).

(b) Have not previously been awarded an associate's degree or bachelor's degree.

(c) Have obtained a high school diploma awarded by a public or private high school located in this State or public high school that is located in a county that borders this State and accepts pupils who are residents of this State or have successfully completed the high school equivalency assessment selected by the State Board pursuant to [NRS 390.055](#) before 20 years of age.

(d) Complete the application for the Nevada Promise Scholarship Program in accordance with the regulations prescribed by the Board of Regents.

(e) Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid provided for by 20 U.S.C. § 1090 or, if the student is prohibited by law from completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, an alternative determination for financial aid prescribed by the Board of Regents for each academic year of participation in the Program on or before the deadline prescribed by the Board of Regents.

(f) Before enrolling in a community college, participate in one training meeting related to financial aid, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and college orientation, as prescribed by the Board of Regents by regulation.

(g) Have met at least once with a mentor assigned to the student through the mentoring program established by the Board of Regents pursuant to [NRS 396.965](#) before the first semester

of enrollment at a community college and at least twice for each academic year while participating in the Program.

(h) Complete at least 8 hours of community service during the last year of high school and before the first semester of enrollment at a community college and at least 8 hours of community service each semester thereafter, not including summer academic terms, while participating in the Program. Community service performed to satisfy the requirements of this paragraph must not include religious proselytizing or service for which the student receives any type of compensation or which directly benefits a member of the family of the student.

(i) Submit all information deemed necessary by the Board of Regents to determine the student's eligibility for gift aid.

(j) Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, be enrolled in at least 12 semester credit hours in a program of study leading to a recognized degree or certificate at a community college for the fall semester of the academic year immediately following the school year in which the student was awarded a high school diploma or have successfully completed the high school equivalency assessment selected by the State Board pursuant to [NRS 390.055](#).

(k) Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2 and this paragraph, be enrolled in at least 12 semester credit hours in a program of study leading to a recognized degree or certificate at a community college for each fall semester and spring semester beginning with the first semester for which the student received a Nevada Promise Scholarship, not including summer academic terms. A student who is on schedule to graduate at:

(1) The end of a semester may enroll in the number of semester credit hours required to graduate.

(2) The end of a fall semester is not required to enroll in credit hours for the spring semester.

(l) Meet satisfactory academic progress, as defined by federal requirements established pursuant to Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1001 et seq., and determined by the community college in which the student is enrolled.

2. The Board of Regents shall establish criteria with respect to students who have a documented physical or mental disability or who were previously subject to an individualized education program under the Individuals with Disabilities Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1400 et seq., or a plan under Title V of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. §§ 791 et seq. The criteria must provide an exemption for those students from:

(a) The limitation on eligibility for a Nevada Promise Scholarship set forth in paragraph (b) of subsection 3; and

(b) The minimum number of credits prescribed in paragraphs (j) and (k) of subsection 1.

3. A student who meets the requirements of subsection 1 is eligible for a Nevada Promise Scholarship from the Program until the occurrence of the first of the following events:

(a) The student is awarded an associate's degree or bachelor's degree; or

(b) Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, the student receives a Nevada Promise Scholarship from the Program for 2 academic years, not including the initial academic year.

NRS 396.967 Renewal of Nevada Promise Scholarship. Repealed. (See chapter 218, [Statutes of Nevada 2019, at page 1219](#).)

NRS 396.9675 Ineligibility for Scholarship for submitting false or misleading information; deadlines; prohibition against certain community service to satisfy requirements. Repealed. (See chapter 218, [Statutes of Nevada 2019, at page 1219.](#))

NRS 396.968 Review and approval of applications by Board of Regents; disbursement of money in Nevada Promise Scholarship Account; notice if insufficient money in Account; award of Nevada Promise Scholarships; regulations.

1. The Board of Regents shall award Nevada Promise Scholarships in accordance with this section to students who are enrolled at a community college and are eligible to receive such scholarships under the provisions of [NRS 396.9665](#).

2. For each eligible student, the Board of Regents shall:

(a) Calculate the maximum amount of a Nevada Promise Scholarship which the student is eligible to receive based on criteria established by regulation pursuant to this section.

(b) Determine the actual amount of the Nevada Promise Scholarship, if any, which will be awarded to the student, which must not exceed the maximum amount calculated pursuant to paragraph (a), but which may be in a lesser amount if the Board of Regents receives notice from the State Treasurer pursuant to subsection 3 that the money available in the Nevada Promise Scholarship Account for any semester is insufficient to award to all eligible students the maximum amount of a Nevada Promise Scholarship which each student is eligible to receive.

(c) If the student is to receive a Nevada Promise Scholarship, award the student a Nevada Promise Scholarship in the amount determined pursuant to paragraph (b). The Board of Regents shall disburse the amount of the Nevada Promise Scholarship awarded to the student, on behalf of the student, directly to the community college in which the student is enrolled.

3. The Board of Regents shall submit a request for a disbursement from the Nevada Promise Scholarship Account created by [NRS 396.9645](#) for the maximum amount of money that will be required to fund a scholarship for each eligible student. Within the limits of money available in the Nevada Promise Scholarship Account, the State Treasurer shall disburse the amount requested to the Board of Regents for disbursement to each community college. If there is insufficient money in the Account to disburse that amount to each community college, the State Treasurer shall provide notice that insufficient money remains in the Nevada Promise Scholarship Account to the Board of Regents. The State Treasurer shall include in the notice the amount of money available for the award of Nevada Promise Scholarships for the academic year and request that a new request be submitted.

4. The Board of Regents shall adopt regulations prescribing:

(a) The criteria for determining the maximum amount of a Nevada Promise Scholarship for an eligible student which is equal to the difference between the amount of the registration fee and other mandatory fees charged to the student by the community college in which the student is enrolled for the academic year, excluding any amount of those fees that is waived by the community college in which the student is enrolled, and the total amount of any other gift aid received by the student for the academic year.

(b) The procedures for submitting a request for disbursement from the Nevada Promise Scholarship Account.

(c) The procedures and standards for determining the actual amount of the Nevada Promise Scholarship which will be awarded to each student upon receiving notice that there is insufficient

money to award all eligible students the maximum amount of the scholarship which each student is eligible to receive. Such procedures and standards:

(1) Must prohibit the Board of Regents from awarding any money to a student who is prohibited by law from completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid provided for by 20 U.S.C. § 1090 unless all students who have completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid have been awarded the maximum amount calculated pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 2; and

(2) May include, without limitation, administration of the program on a first-come, first-served basis for all students who have completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and are otherwise eligible to participate in the Program.

(d) Procedures to ensure that all money from a Nevada Promise Scholarship awarded to a student that is refunded in whole or in part for any reason is refunded to the Nevada Promise Scholarship Account and not the student.

NRS 396.9682 Conditions under which Board of Regents may grant leave of absence; duties of Board of Regents upon granting leave of absence; regulations.

1. The Board of Regents may grant a leave of absence from the Program to a student upon request. A student may request a leave of absence for:

(a) An illness or serious medical problem of the student or a member of the student's immediate family;

(b) Extreme financial hardship for the student or a member of the student's immediate family;

(c) Engaging in any activity required or encouraged for members of the student's religious faith;

(d) Mobilization of the student's unit of the Armed Forces of the United States or National Guard; or

(e) Any other extraordinary circumstances beyond the control of the student that would create a substantial hardship for the student, as determined by the Board of Regents.

2. If the Board of Regents grants a leave of absence to a student, the Board of Regents shall:

(a) Make a determination in accordance with regulations adopted by the Board of Regents as to which requirements for eligibility in the Program set forth in [NRS 396.9665](#) are appropriate to waive for the student; and

(b) Waive requirements for eligibility as determined pursuant to paragraph (a) for the student for the length of the leave of absence.

3. The Board of Regents shall adopt regulations establishing:

(a) Procedures for a student to request a leave of absence pursuant to subsection 1; and

(b) Criteria for determining appropriate requirements for eligibility to waive for a student who has been granted a leave of absence pursuant to subsection 2.

NRS 396.9685 Board of Regents to prepare and submit annual report concerning Nevada Promise Scholarships and scholarship recipients.

1. On or before August 1 of each year, the Board of Regents shall:

(a) Review all Nevada Promise Scholarships awarded for the immediately preceding academic year;

(b) Compile a report for the immediately preceding academic year, which must include the number of students who applied for a scholarship, the number of students who received a scholarship, the total cost associated with the award of Nevada Promise Scholarships, the total number of hours of community service performed pursuant to [NRS 396.9665](#), the graduation rate of students who received a scholarship and the scholarship retention rate; and

(c) Submit the report to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to:

- (1) In even-numbered years, the next regular session of the Legislature; and
- (2) In odd-numbered years, the Legislative Committee on Education.

2. As used in this section, “scholarship retention rate” means the percentage of students who received a scholarship for the academic year immediately preceding the academic year to which a report compiled pursuant to subsection 1 pertains who did not graduate by the end of that academic year and who also received a Nevada Promise Scholarship for the academic year to which the report pertains.

**BOARD OF REGENTS POLICY/NSHE PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES MANUAL – NEVADA
PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Board of Regents *Handbook*, Title 4, Chapter 18, Section 11

Section 11. Nevada Promise Scholarship: Policy and Procedures

1. Eligible Institutions. An eligible institution is an NSHE community college, specifically: The College of Southern Nevada (CSN); Great Basin College (GBC); Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC); and Western Nevada College (WNC).
2. Eligibility Requirements for Students. To be eligible to receive a Nevada Promise Scholarship (scholarship), a student must:
 - a. Be a Nevada resident in accordance with the provisions of Title 4, Chapter 15;
 - b. Have not previously been awarded an associate degree or bachelor’s degree;
 - c. Have:
 - i. Obtained a high school diploma from a public or private high school located in Nevada;
 - ii. Obtained a high school diploma from a public high school that is located in a county that borders Nevada and accepts students who are residents of Nevada; or
 - iii. Successfully completed the high school equivalency assessment selected by the State Board of Education pursuant to NRS 390.055 before 20 years of age;
 - d. Complete the Nevada Promise Scholarship Program (the Program) application;
 - e. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), or if the student is prohibited by law from completing the FAFSA, complete an alternative form acknowledging said prohibition, for each academic year of participation in the Program;
 - f. Before enrolling in a community college, participate in one training meeting related to financial aid, the FAFSA, and college orientation;

- g. Have met at least once with a mentor assigned to the student through the mentoring program before the first semester of enrollment at a community college, and at least twice during each academic year while in the Program;
 - h. Complete at least eight hours of community service during the last year of high school and before the first semester of enrollment at a community college;
 - i. Beginning with the first semester of enrollment at a community college and each semester thereafter, not including summer academic terms, complete at least eight hours of community service while participating in the Program;
 - j. Submit all information deemed necessary by the community college to determine the student's eligibility for gift aid;
 - k. Except as otherwise provided, be enrolled in at least 12 credits in a program of study leading to a recognized degree or certificate at a community college for the fall semester of the academic year immediately following the school year in which the student either was awarded a high school diploma or successfully completed the high school assessment selected by the State Board of Education pursuant to NRS 390.055;
 - l. Except as otherwise provided, be enrolled in at least 12 credits in a program of study leading to a recognized degree or certificate at a community college for each fall semester and spring semester beginning with the first semester for which the student is eligible pursuant to this Subsection, not including summer academic terms. A student who is on schedule to graduate at:
 - i. The end of a semester may enroll in the number of credits required to graduate;
 - ii. The end of a fall semester is not required to enroll in credits for the following spring semester.
 - m. Meet "satisfactory academic progress," as defined in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, 20 U.S.C. Section(s) 1001 et seq.; and
 - n. Except as otherwise provided, have not already received the scholarship for three (3) academic years.
3. Students with Disabilities. Students who have a documented physical or mental disability or students who were previously subject to an individualized education program under either the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. Section(s) 1400 et seq. or a plan under Title V of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. Section(s) 791 et seq., are exempt from the following eligibility requirements:
- a. The minimum number of credits prescribed in Subsections k. and l. of Subsection 2; and
 - b. The limitation on the number of academic years a student may receive the scholarship as set forth in Subsection n. of Subsection 2.
4. Appeals
- a. Grounds for Appeal: Each community college shall allow an applicant or a scholarship recipient to appeal any adverse decision concerning his or her eligibility to receive a scholarship.

- b. Process for Appeal: Each community college shall develop a process for appeals that, at a minimum, meets the requirements of the federal Title IV satisfactory academic progress appeals process.
 - c. Documentation from the Student: Each community college may request any additional information reasonably necessary to properly and thoroughly review the appeal.
 - d. Review of the Appeal: Except as otherwise provided, the final determination on any appeal pursued under this Subsection shall be reached on a case-by-case basis and shall be based on the facts of each case as presented by the appellant and the community college.
 - e. Notification to Student of Action: Each community college shall notify the student in writing of the final determination on the appeal.
5. Leaves of Absence. A student may request a leave of absence from the Program for:
- a. An illness or serious medical problem of the student or a member of the student's immediate family;
 - b. Extreme financial hardship for the student or a member of the student's immediate family;
 - c. Engaging in any activity required or encouraged for members of the student's religious faith;
 - d. Mobilization of the student's unit of the Armed Forces of the United States or National Guard; or
 - e. Any other extraordinary circumstances beyond the control of the student that would create a substantial hardship for the student, as determined by the community college.

A leave of absence may be granted only for one or more of the reasons stated above. If approved by the community college, the student may be temporarily exempted from any of the requirements set forth in Subsections d. through l. of Subsection 2, inclusive, while leave of absence is in effect.

A leave of absence may not exceed four (4) years in length.

6. Transferability. A student receiving the scholarship who transfers to another eligible institution shall continue to receive the scholarship so long as the student has maintained eligibility as defined in Subsection 2. After transferring, a student must meet all the conditions of Subsection 2 at the new institution in order to remain eligible for the scholarship.
7. Community Service.
- a. Each community college shall:
 - i. Maintain a list of community service opportunities available to scholarship applicants and recipients to allow them to satisfy the eligibility requirements for participation in the Program concerning the completion of community service; and
 - ii. Post the list of community service opportunities on a publicly available website maintained by the community college or local partnering organization.

- b. The list of community service opportunities maintained by each community college is not exclusive, and students may perform other community service that meets the requirements of this Section in order to satisfy the eligibility requirements for participation in the Program.
 - c. Community service performed to satisfy the eligibility requirements must benefit or support the community and shall not:
 - i. Result in compensation, payment or remuneration of any kind for the student;
 - ii. Directly benefit a member of the family of the applicant or student, as applicable;
 - iii. Include paid or unpaid internships;
 - iv. Include donation of money or items as community service; or
 - v. Include participation in fund-raising events but may include volunteering to assist in the administration of the event. For example, as a “walker” in a “cancer walk” to raise money for cancer research does not qualify as community service, but volunteering to assist with registration, set-up or similar activities at the event may qualify as community service.
 - d. Community service may be performed with or under the direction of a faith-based organization but must not include religious proselytizing or persuasion.
8. Awarding of Scholarships.
- a. Community colleges shall notify students that scholarship awards are contingent on available funding.
 - b. In the event that sufficient funds are not available to award scholarships to all eligible students, community colleges shall award based on the following priorities:
 - i. First, to students who have received the award in previous academic years, on a first-come, first-served basis, based on the FAFSA or alternative form completion date; and
 - ii. Second, to students who would be receiving the award for the first time on a first-come, first-served basis based on the FAFSA or alternative form completion date.
9. Definitions
- a. “Academic year” means two (2) consecutive semesters, beginning with a fall semester, and one (1) summer academic term at a community college.
 - b. “FAFSA” is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid provided for by 20 U.S.C. Section 1090.
 - c. “Gift aid” means a Federal Pell grant, a Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, a Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship awarded pursuant to NRS 396.911 to 396.945, inclusive, or a grant awarded under the Silver State Opportunity Grant Program pursuant to NRS 396.950 to 396.960, inclusive, received by a student.
 - d. “Nevada Promise Scholarship” means a scholarship awarded in accordance with this policy and pursuant to NRS 396.965.

- e. "Nevada Promise Scholarship Account" is the account created in the Nevada State General Fund and administered by the Nevada State Treasurer pursuant to NRS 396.9645.
 - f. "Registration fee and other mandatory fees" means a registration fee assessed per credit and mandatory fees assessed per credit pursuant to Title 4, Chapter 17 of the Handbook, and charged to all students by a community college. This term does not include special course fees, differential program fees, or fees charged for specific programs of study, books or supplies even if such fees are considered necessary for enrollment.
 - g. "Scholarship retention rate" means the percentage of students who received a scholarship for the academic year immediately preceding the academic year to which a report compiled pursuant to Subsection 10 pertains who did not graduate by the end of that academic year and who also received a scholarship for the academic year to which the report pertains.
10. Reporting. On an annual basis, the community colleges shall submit to the Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges data to include the number of students who applied for a scholarship, the number of students who received a scholarship, the total cost associated with the award of scholarships, the total number of hours of community service performed pursuant to Subsection 7, the graduation rate of students who received a scholarship and the scholarship retention rate, as well as any other information deemed necessary to evaluate the Program.
11. Procedures and Guidelines.
- a. The Chancellor shall establish in Procedures & Guidelines the following:
 - i. Any deadlines necessary for the implementation of the program;
 - ii. A common application for the program;
 - iii. An acknowledgment form pursuant to Subsection 2 for students who are prohibited by law from completing the FAFSA;
 - iv. Reporting requirements related to the number of appeals received, the reason for appeals, and the final determinations on appeals pursuant to Subsection 4;
 - v. Requirements for mentoring programs administered by the community colleges; and
 - vi. Any other provisions necessary to guide the community colleges in fulfilling the statutory requirements of the program.
 - b. The Chancellor may establish procedures authorizing a community college to enter into an agreement with one or more nonprofit organizations or governmental entities to conduct any activities required by this Section for a training program that allows a student to satisfy the requirements of Subsection f. of Subsection 2 and/or a mentoring program that allows a student to satisfy the requirements of Subsection g. of Subsection 2.
12. Disclaimer. The standards set forth in this Section are subject to amendment and are not intended to and do not create any right or interest in liberty or property or establish a basis for any cause of action against the state, its political subdivisions, agencies, boards, commissions, departments, officers or employees.

Section 3. Nevada Promise Scholarship Program

Title 4, Chapter 18, Section 11 of the Board of Regents' Handbook directs the Chancellor to establish procedures and guidelines to comply with the requirements of the Nevada Promise Scholarship Program codified under Chapter 396 of the Nevada Revised Statutes.

1. Deadlines.

To be eligible to receive a Nevada Promise Scholarship, a student must meet the following deadline requirements:

- a. Application: A student must complete the Nevada Promise Scholarship Application on or before October 31st of the year prior to the student's first fall semester of enrollment. (Ex: A student planning to enroll for their first semester in Fall 2020 must complete the Application on or before October 31, 2019.)
- b. Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA): A student must complete the FAFSA on or before March 1st prior to each academic year. A student who is prohibited by law from completing the FAFSA must complete the acknowledgement form, as defined in Subsection 3 of this Section, on or before March 1st prior to each academic year.
- c. Training: A student must participate in one training meeting related to financial aid, the FAFSA, and College Orientation on or before March 1st in the year of the student's first fall semester of enrollment.
- d. Community Service: A student must complete at least 8 hours of eligible community service as defined in Title 4, Chapter 18, Section 11 of the Board of Regents' Handbook on or before July 1st in the year of the student's first fall semester of enrollment. To maintain eligibility, a student must complete at least 8 hours of eligible community service on or before January 1st for fall semester and on or before July 1st for spring semester.
- e. Meeting with a Mentor: A student must have met at least once with a mentor assigned to them, in accordance with Subsection 5 of this Section, on or before July 1st in the year of the student's first fall semester of enrollment. To maintain eligibility, a student must meet at least once with their assigned mentor on or before January 1st for fall semester and on or before July 1st for spring semester while enrolled and receiving the scholarship.
- f. Gift Aid Eligibility Documentation: A student must submit all information deemed necessary by the community college to determine the student's eligibility for gift aid on or before July 1st prior to each academic year.
- g. Leaves of Absence: A leave of absence must be requested before or during the first semester in which said leave of absence would commence.

2. Common Application.

There shall be a single, web-based application for the scholarship that is utilized by all four community colleges. The application shall be created and maintained by the Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges, with input from the community

colleges. The information collected shall be available to each community college for their respective applicants.

3. Acknowledgement Form.

Students who are prohibited by law from completing a FAFSA must complete the Nevada Promise Scholarship Non-FAFSA Filer Affirmation form affirming said prohibition. This form shall be a single form utilized by all community colleges for this purpose and shall be created and maintained by the Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges, with input from the community colleges.

4. Reporting on Appeals and Leaves of Absence

In addition to the requirements of Title 4, Chapter 18, Section 11 of the Board of *Regents' Handbook*, each community college shall track and report on an annual basis to the Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges:

- a. The number of appeals received;
- b. The number of appeals granted;
- c. The number of appeals denied;
- d. The reasons provided by students for appeal;
- e. The number of requests for Leaves of Absence received; and
- f. The number of Leaves of Absence granted.

The community college shall maintain all necessary information on appeals and leaves of absence granted for each student.

5. Mentoring Program

- a. Each community college shall create and maintain a Nevada Promise Scholarship mentoring program for the purpose of students gaining and maintaining eligibility in accordance with Title 4, Chapter 18, Section 11 of the *Board of Regents' Handbook*.
- b. Each community college shall pair a Nevada Promise Scholarship applicant (mentee) directly with an eligible mentor who shall serve as that student's mentor for the duration of their enrollment in the program, unless a request is made by the student or mentor for reassignment. The community college shall provide the mentee and parent/guardian with the name and contact information for the assigned mentor. The community college shall also provide the mentor with the name and contact information for each assigned mentee as well as their parent/guardian. Each mentor shall include the parent/guardian in any initial communication. Each community college may require a parental consent form for mentees to participate in the mentoring program.
- c. Mentors shall meet with mentees in either a public setting or at a time and place established by the community college, for example a meet-and-greet session at the community college. A mentor may conduct a meeting over the phone if a personal meeting is unreasonably burdensome.
- d. Each mentor shall be assigned no more than ten (10) mentees at any one time.
- e. An eligible mentor shall:

- i. Be 21 years old or older;
- ii. Pass a comprehensive background check, including but not limited to a criminal background check, at least once every three years;
- iii. Complete a training offered by the community college that includes but is not limited to:
 - a. Nevada Promise Scholarship eligibility requirements;
 - a. FAFSA and Financial Aid;
 - b. How to effectively communicate and work with prospective and new college students;
 - c. Guidelines for safely meeting individually with students; and
 - d. Contact information for a staff member at the community college who can answer questions from mentors or mentees.

6. Students with Disabilities

Students who have a documented temporary or permanent physical or mental disability or who were previously subject to an individualized education program (IEP) under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1400 et seq., or a plan under Title V of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. §§ 791 et seq. are to be determined by the community college to be exempt from the following NPS eligibility criteria:

- a. The minimum number of credits required for eligibility; and
- b. The limitation on the number of academic years a student may receive the scholarship.

To receive funding under a reduced credit load, students must submit to the community college's disability resource center (DRC) the Nevada Promise Scholarship Students with Documented Disabilities form by the end of the semester for which they are seeking funding. The completed form will be sent directly from the DRC to the financial aid office, where the scholarship award will be processed.

Should the student begin the semester under regular funding criteria and then submit the form after receiving the scholarship, funding may be reduced and the student's full refund (if applicable) will be returned to the Nevada Promise Scholarship account. If it is determined that circumstances leading to changes in a student's documented disability require that they reduce their credit load after the Nevada Promise Scholarship Students with Documented Disabilities form is submitted for the current semester, the student may request a revision to be done on a case-by-case basis provided this determination is made before the end of the semester.

7. Refunds.

All money from a Nevada Promise Scholarship awarded to a student that is refunded in whole or in part for any reason shall be refunded to the Nevada Promise Scholarship

account and not the student. In the event a Nevada Promise Scholarship recipient is due a refund that is less than 100%, and said student has also received funds from the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship (GGMS), the refunded amount shall be divided and returned to these two programs based on the proportionality between these two programs of the original award, up to the amount originally awarded from each scholarship. This proportional approach applies only after any Pell Grant or other Title IV aid, if any, is returned to the federal government according to the Return To Title IV (R2T4) calculation.

For example:

1) A student's entire bill was paid using a combination of GGMS and NPS and is due a partial refund of 50%:

- Total bill of \$1,000.
- GGMS paid \$250 (25% of total)
- NPS paid \$750 (75% of total)
- Refund due is 50% (\$500)
- GGMS receives \$125 (.25*500)
- NPS receives \$375 (.75*500)

2) A student's entire bill was paid using a combination of Pell, GGMS and NPS and is due a partial refund that is less than R2T4:

- Total bill of \$1,800
- Pell paid \$473
- GGMS paid \$480
- NPS paid \$847
- Refund due is \$350
- R2T4 results in a return of \$400 (which exceeds refunded amount)
- GGMS receives \$0
- NPS receives \$0

3) A student's entire bill was paid using a combination of Pell, GGMS and NPS and is due a partial refund that is greater than R2T4:

- Total bill of \$1,800
- Pell paid \$473
- GGMS paid \$480 (36.2% of GGMS+NPS Total)
- NPS paid \$847 (63.8% of GGMS+NPS Total)
- Refund due is \$350
- R2T4 results in a return of \$200
- GGMS receives \$54.30 (.362*150)
- NPS receives \$95.70 (.638*150)

SENATE BILL 347 (CHAPTER 542, STATUTES OF NEVADA 2021) – SELECTED SECTIONS

EXPLANATION – Matter in ***bolded italics*** is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN

SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

....

Sec. 27.05. NRS 396.540 is hereby amended to read as follows:

396.540 1. For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Bona fide resident" shall be construed in accordance with the provisions of NRS 10.155 and policies established by the Board of Regents, to the extent that those policies do not conflict with any statute. The qualification "bona fide" is intended to ensure that the residence is genuine and established for purposes other than the avoidance of tuition.

(b) "Matriculation" has the meaning ascribed to it in regulations adopted by the Board of Regents.

(c) "Tuition charge" means a charge assessed against students who are not residents of Nevada and which is in addition to registration fees or other fees assessed against students who are residents of Nevada.

2. The Board of Regents may fix a tuition charge for students at all campuses of the System, but tuition charges must not be assessed against:

(a) All students whose families have been bona fide residents of the State of Nevada for at least 12 months before the matriculation of the student at a university, state college or community college within the System;

(b) All students whose families reside outside of the State of Nevada, providing such students have themselves been bona fide residents of the State of Nevada for at least 12 months before their matriculation at a university, state college or community college within the System;

(c) All students whose parent, legal guardian or spouse is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States who:

(1) Is on active duty and stationed at a military installation in the State of Nevada or a military installation in another state which has a specific nexus to this State, including, without limitation, the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center located at Pickel Meadow, California; or

(2) Was on active duty and stationed at a military installation in the State of Nevada or a military installation in another state which has a specific nexus to this State, including, without limitation, the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center located at Pickel Meadow, California, on the date on which the student ~~enrolled at~~ **is admitted to** an institution of the System if such students **enroll and** maintain continuous enrollment at an institution of the System;

(d) All students who are using benefits under the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship pursuant to 38 U.S.C. § 3311(b)(8);

(e) All public school teachers who are employed full-time by school districts in the State of Nevada;

(f) All full-time teachers in private elementary, secondary and postsecondary educational institutions in the State of Nevada whose curricula meet the requirements of chapter 394 of NRS;

(g) Employees of the System who take classes other than during their regular working hours;

(h) Members of the Armed Forces of the United States who are on active duty and stationed at a military installation in the State of Nevada or a military installation in another state which has a specific nexus to this State, including, without limitation, the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center located at Pickel Meadow, California;

(i) Veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States who were honorably discharged and who were on active duty while stationed at a military installation in the State of Nevada or a military installation in another state which has a specific nexus to this State, including, without limitation, the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center located at Pickel Meadow, California, on the date of discharge;

(j) Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States who were honorably discharged within the 5 years immediately preceding the date of matriculation of the veteran at a university, state college or community college within the System; ~~and~~

(k) Veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States who have been awarded the Purple Heart ~~;~~ *and*

(l) Students who graduated from a high school located in this State, regardless of whether the student or the family of the student have been bona fide residents of the State of Nevada for at least 12 months before the matriculation of the student at a university, state college or community college within the System.

3. The Board of Regents may grant more favorable exemptions from tuition charges for veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States who were honorably discharged than the exemption provided pursuant to paragraph (j) of subsection 2, if required for the receipt of federal money.

4. The Board of Regents may grant exemptions from tuition charges each semester to other worthwhile and deserving students from other states and foreign countries, in a number not to exceed a number equal to 3 percent of the total matriculated enrollment of students for the last preceding fall semester.

....

Sec. 27.97. NRS 396.9665 is hereby amended to read as follows:

396.9665 1. To be eligible to receive a Nevada Promise Scholarship, a student must:

(a) Be a bona fide resident of this State, as construed in NRS 396.540 ~~[.]~~, *or have graduated from a high school located in this State.*

(b) Have not previously been awarded an associate's degree or bachelor's degree.

(c) Have obtained a high school diploma awarded by a public or private high school located in this State or public high school that is located in a county that borders this State and accepts pupils who are residents of this State or have successfully completed the high school equivalency assessment selected by the State Board pursuant to NRS 390.055 before 20 years of age.

(d) Complete the application for the Nevada Promise Scholarship Program in accordance with the regulations prescribed by the Board of Regents.

(e) Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid provided for by 20 U.S.C. § 1090 or, if the student is prohibited by law from completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, an alternative determination for financial aid prescribed by the Board of Regents

for each academic year of participation in the Program on or before the deadline prescribed by the Board of Regents.

(f) Before enrolling in a community college, participate in one training meeting related to financial aid, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and college orientation, as prescribed by the Board of Regents by regulation.

(g) Have met at least once with a mentor assigned to the student through the mentoring program established by the Board of Regents pursuant to NRS 396.965 before the first semester of enrollment at a community college and at least twice for each academic year while participating in the Program.

(h) Complete at least 8 hours of community service during the last year of high school and before the first semester of enrollment at a community college and at least 8 hours of community service each semester thereafter, not including summer academic terms, while participating in the Program. Community service performed to satisfy the requirements of this paragraph must not include religious proselytizing or service for which the student receives any type of compensation or which directly benefits a member of the family of the student.

(i) Submit all information deemed necessary by the Board of Regents to determine the student's eligibility for gift aid.

(j) Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, be enrolled in at least 12 semester credit hours in a program of study leading to a recognized degree or certificate at a community college for the fall semester of the academic year immediately following the school year in which the student was awarded a high school diploma or have successfully completed the high school equivalency assessment selected by the State Board pursuant to NRS 390.055.

(k) Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2 and this paragraph, be enrolled in at least 12 semester credit hours in a program of study leading to a recognized degree or certificate at a community college for each fall semester and spring semester beginning with the first semester for which the student received a Nevada Promise Scholarship, not including summer academic terms. A student who is on schedule to graduate at:

(1) The end of a semester may enroll in the number of semester credit hours required to graduate.

(2) The end of a fall semester is not required to enroll in credit hours for the spring semester.

(l) Meet satisfactory academic progress, as defined by federal requirements established pursuant to Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1001 et seq., and determined by the community college in which the student is enrolled.

2. The Board of Regents shall establish criteria with respect to students who have a documented physical or mental disability or who were previously subject to an individualized education program under the Individuals with Disabilities Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1400 et seq., or a plan under Title V of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. §§ 791 et seq. The criteria must provide an exemption for those students from:

(a) The limitation on eligibility for a Nevada Promise Scholarship set forth in paragraph (b) of subsection 3; and

(b) The minimum number of credits prescribed in paragraphs (j) and (k) of subsection 1.

3. A student who meets the requirements of subsection 1 is eligible for a Nevada Promise Scholarship from the Program until the occurrence of the first of the following events:

(a) The student is awarded an associate's degree or bachelor's degree; or

(b) Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, the student receives a Nevada Promise Scholarship from the Program for 2 academic years, not including the initial academic year.

Sec. 27.99. NRS 396.968 is hereby amended to read as follows:

396.968 1. The Board of Regents shall award Nevada Promise Scholarships in accordance with this section to students who are enrolled at a community college and are eligible to receive such scholarships under the provisions of NRS 396.9665.

2. For each eligible student, the Board of Regents shall:

(a) Calculate the maximum amount of a Nevada Promise Scholarship which the student is eligible to receive based on criteria established by regulation pursuant to this section.

(b) Determine the actual amount of the Nevada Promise Scholarship, if any, which will be awarded to the student, which must not exceed the maximum amount calculated pursuant to paragraph (a), but which may be in a lesser amount if the Board of Regents receives notice from the State Treasurer pursuant to subsection 3 that the money available in the Nevada Promise Scholarship Account for any semester is insufficient to award to all eligible students the maximum amount of a Nevada Promise Scholarship which each student is eligible to receive.

(c) If the student is to receive a Nevada Promise Scholarship, award the student a Nevada Promise Scholarship in the amount determined pursuant to paragraph (b). The Board of Regents shall disburse the amount of the Nevada Promise Scholarship awarded to the student, on behalf of the student, directly to the community college in which the student is enrolled.

3. The Board of Regents shall submit a request for a disbursement from the Nevada Promise Scholarship Account created by NRS 396.9645 for the maximum amount of money that will be required to fund a scholarship for each eligible student. Within the limits of money available in the Nevada Promise Scholarship Account, the State Treasurer shall disburse the amount requested to the Board of Regents for disbursement to each community college. If there is insufficient money in the Account to disburse that amount to each community college, the State Treasurer shall provide notice that insufficient money remains in the Nevada Promise Scholarship Account to the Board of Regents. The State Treasurer shall include in the notice the amount of money available for the award of Nevada Promise Scholarships for the academic year and request that a new request be submitted.

4. The Board of Regents shall adopt regulations prescribing:

(a) The criteria for determining the maximum amount of a Nevada Promise Scholarship for an eligible student which is equal to the difference between the amount of the registration fee and other mandatory fees charged to the student by the community college in which the student is enrolled for the academic year, excluding any amount of those fees that is waived by the community college in which the student is enrolled, and the total amount of any other gift aid received by the student for the academic year.

(b) The procedures for submitting a request for disbursement from the Nevada Promise Scholarship Account.

(c) The procedures and standards for determining the actual amount of the Nevada Promise Scholarship which will be awarded to each student upon receiving notice that there is insufficient money to award all eligible students the maximum amount of the scholarship which each student is eligible to receive. Such procedures and standards [:

~~(1) Must prohibit the Board of Regents from awarding any money to a student who is prohibited by law from completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid provided for by 20 U.S.C. § 1090 unless all students who have completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid have been awarded the maximum amount calculated pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 2; and~~

~~(2) May~~ **may** include, without limitation, administration of the program on a first-come, first-served basis for all students who ~~[have completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and]~~ are ~~[otherwise]~~ eligible to participate in the Program.

(d) Procedures to ensure that all money from a Nevada Promise Scholarship awarded to a student that is refunded in whole or in part for any reason is refunded to the Nevada Promise Scholarship Account and not the student.

• • • •

Sec. 30. 1. This section becomes effective upon passage and approval.

2. Section 12 of this act becomes effective upon passage and approval for the purpose of appointing members to the Task Force on Sexual Misconduct at Institutions of Higher Education and on July 1, 2021, for all other purposes.

3. Sections 1 to 11, inclusive, and 12.5 to 29, inclusive, of this act become effective on July 1, 2021.