

BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER
HANDBOOK Revision, Millennium Scholarship
Maintaining Eligibility

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 396.930 and 396.934 establish the initial and continuing eligibility requirements for the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship (GGMS) program 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 396.934 and establishes related provisions.

The 2017 Legislature passed Assembly Bill 202 (Chapter 150, *Statutes of Nevada 2017*) which required an interim study concerning the cost and affordability of higher education in Nevada. Leading up to the study, Chancellor Thom Reilly charged Assistant Vice Chancellor Crystal Abba with convening a working group consisting of the financial aid directors from across the System to generally review and make recommendations regarding Nevada's state funded financial aid programs. The working group recommended changing the required grade point average for the purpose of GGMS continuing eligibility from a tiered requirement based on year of enrollment to a single grade point average for all continuing students, regardless of year of enrollment. These recommendations were presented to and endorsed by the interim study committee, resulting in the introduction of [Senate Bill 453](#) (Chapter 290, *Statutes of Nevada 2019*).

Subsequently, the 2019 Legislature passed Senate Bill 453 (Chapter 290, *Statutes of Nevada 2019*) that increases the required grade point average to maintain eligibility for the GGMS from a minimum of 2.60 to a minimum of 2.75 on a 4.0 grading scale during the student's first year. This change removes the tiered approach to grade point average that differentiated eligibility of first year semesters from subsequent semesters. Senate Bill 453 provides for a single defined grade point average each fall and spring semester to maintain eligibility for GGMS. The proposed revisions to Title 4, Chapter 18, Section 9.14 will bring the Handbook provisions governing GGMS in compliance with revised provisions of state law enacted under Senate Bill 453.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Amend Title 4, Chapter 18, Section 9 of the *Handbook* to align with Senate Bill 453 passed by the 2019 Legislature to increase the required grade point average for each term of the first year of enrollment from 2.6 to 2.75.

IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

This proposal is brought forward to revise Board policy regarding GGMS eligibility in response to Senate Bill 453, which was passed by the 2019 Legislature and is effective on July 1, 2020. Approving the revision now will give the NSHE campuses and Treasurer's Office time to communicate the change to students.

CHECK THE NSHE STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL THAT IS SUPPORTED BY THIS REQUEST:

- ☐ Access (Increase participation in post-secondary education)
- ☐ Success (Increase student success)
- ☐ Close the Achievement Gap (Close the achievement gap among underserved student populations)
- ☐ Workforce (Collaboratively address the challenges of the workforce and industry education needs of Nevada)
- ☐ Research (Co-develop solutions to the critical issues facing 21st century Nevada and raise the overall research profile)
- ✓ Not Applicable to NSHE Strategic Plan Goals

INDICATE HOW THE PROPOSAL SUPPORTS THE SPECIFIC STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL

Not applicable.

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 enacted provision of Senate Bill 453 in determining continuing eligibility for the GGMS program.

POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

None have been presented.

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

None have been presented.

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE:

The Chancellor's Office recommends amending Board policy revision.

COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

- ☐ Consistent with Current Board Policy: Title #____ Chapter #____ Section #____
- ✓ Amends Current Board Policy: Title # 4, Chapter # 18, Section # 9.14
- ☐ Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter #____ Section #____
- ☐ Other:_____
- ✓ Fiscal Impact: Yes_ ____ No_ X____
Explain: This change will have no fiscal impact on NSHE.

POLICY PROPOSAL
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 18, Section 9

Millennium Scholarship – Maintaining Scholarship Eligibility
Effective July 1, 2020

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

Section 9. Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship: Policy and Procedure

....

9.14 To remain eligible⁶ for a Millennium Scholarship, a student must meet all of the following conditions at each institution where the student is a Millennium Scholarship recipient:

a. The student must make satisfactory academic progress, as defined by the home institution, toward a recognized associate degree, baccalaureate degree, or pre-baccalaureate certificate;

b. *The student must maintain for each fall and spring semester that Millennium Scholarship funding is received at least a* [.2.00 cumulative grade point average if Millennium Scholarship eligibility occurred on or before May 1, 2003, and a 2.60 cumulative grade point average if the student became eligible for a Millennium Scholarship after May 1, 2003; and

c. ~~Beginning January 1, 2006, all students with initial Millennium Scholarship eligibility occurring after May 1, 2003 must:~~

1. ~~Maintain a 2.60 semester grade point average for each semester during their first year of enrollment (first year is defined as less than 30 credit hours earned); and~~
2. ~~Maintain~~ 2.75 semester grade point average [~~for each thereafter~~].

c. [~~d.~~] The student must satisfactorily complete the minimum credit requirements in each fall and spring semester in which enrolled pursuant to Section 9.6.

....

⁶After *initial* eligibility is established (as specified in sections 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3), determinations of continuing eligibility are made only after the student's *first* enrollment at an eligible institution with Millennium Scholarship support

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship Program; increasing the grade point average required during the first year of enrollment to retain eligibility for a scholarship; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

During the first year of enrollment in the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship Program, existing law requires a recipient to maintain at least a 2.60 grade point average during each semester and then to maintain a 2.75 grade point average during each semester in the second and each subsequent year of enrollment. (NRS 396.934) **Section 1** of this bill raises the required grade point average to 2.75 for each semester of enrollment in the Program, which means the required grade point average is increased from 2.60 to 2.75 for each semester of the first year of enrollment in the Program.

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:

Section 1. NRS 396.934 is hereby amended to read as follows:

396.934 1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, within the limits of money available in the Trust Fund, a student who is eligible for a Millennium Scholarship is entitled to receive:

(a) If he or she is enrolled in a community college within the System, including, without limitation, a summer academic term, \$40 per credit for each lower division course and \$60 per credit for each upper division course in which the student is enrolled, or the amount of money that is necessary for the student to pay the costs of attending the community college that are not otherwise satisfied by other grants or scholarships, whichever is less. The Board of Regents shall provide for the designation of upper and lower division courses for the purposes of this paragraph.

(b) If he or she is enrolled in a state college within the System, including, without limitation, a summer academic term, \$60 per credit for which the student is enrolled, or the amount of money that is necessary for the student to pay the costs of attending the state college that are not otherwise satisfied by other grants or scholarships, whichever is less.

(c) If he or she is enrolled in another eligible institution, including, without limitation, a summer academic term, \$80 per credit for which the student is enrolled, or the amount of money that



is necessary for the student to pay the costs of attending the university that are not otherwise satisfied by other grants or scholarships, whichever is less.

(d) If he or she is enrolled in more than one eligible institution, including, without limitation, a summer academic term, the amount authorized pursuant to paragraph (a), (b) or (c), or a combination thereof, in accordance with procedures and guidelines established by the Board of Regents.

➔ In no event may a student who is eligible for a Millennium Scholarship receive more than the cost of 15 semester credits per semester pursuant to this subsection.

2. No student may be awarded a Millennium Scholarship:

(a) To pay for remedial courses.

(b) For a total amount in excess of \$10,000.

3. A student who receives a Millennium Scholarship shall:

(a) Make satisfactory academic progress toward a recognized degree or certificate, as determined by the Board of Regents pursuant to subsection 8; and

(b) ~~If the student graduated from high school after May 1, 2003, maintain:~~

~~— (1) At least a 2.60 grade point average on a 4.0 grading scale for each semester during the first year of enrollment in the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship Program.~~

~~— (2) At~~ **Maintain** at least a 2.75 grade point average on a 4.0 grading scale for each semester ~~{during the second year}~~ of enrollment in the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship Program ~~. {and for each semester during each year of enrollment thereafter.}~~

4. A student who receives a Millennium Scholarship is encouraged to volunteer at least 20 hours of community service for this State, a political subdivision of this State or a charitable organization that provides service to a community or the residents of a community in this State during each year in which the student receives a Millennium Scholarship.

5. If a student does not satisfy the requirements of subsection 3 during one semester of enrollment, excluding a summer academic term, he or she is not eligible for the Millennium Scholarship for the succeeding semester of enrollment. If such a student:

(a) Subsequently satisfies the requirements of subsection 3 in a semester in which he or she is not eligible for the Millennium Scholarship, the student is eligible for the Millennium Scholarship for the student's next semester of enrollment.



(b) Fails a second time to satisfy the requirements of subsection 3 during any subsequent semester, excluding a summer academic term, the student is no longer eligible for a Millennium Scholarship.

6. A Millennium Scholarship must be used only:

(a) For the payment of registration fees and laboratory fees and expenses;

(b) To purchase required textbooks and course materials; and

(c) For other costs related to the attendance of the student at the eligible institution.

7. The Board of Regents shall certify a list of eligible students to the State Treasurer. The State Treasurer shall disburse a Millennium Scholarship for each semester on behalf of an eligible student directly to the eligible institution in which the student is enrolled, upon certification from the eligible institution of the number of credits for which the student is enrolled, which must meet or exceed the minimum number of credits required for eligibility and certification that the student is in good standing and making satisfactory academic progress toward a recognized degree or certificate, as determined by the Board of Regents pursuant to subsection 8. The Millennium Scholarship must be administered by the eligible institution as other similar scholarships are administered and may be used only for the expenditures authorized pursuant to subsection 6. If a student is enrolled in more than one eligible institution, the Millennium Scholarship must be administered by the eligible institution at which the student is enrolled in a program of study leading to a recognized degree or certificate.

8. The Board of Regents shall establish:

(a) Criteria for determining whether a student is making satisfactory academic progress toward a recognized degree or certificate for purposes of subsection 7.

(b) Procedures to ensure that all money from a Millennium Scholarship awarded to a student that is refunded in whole or in part for any reason is refunded to the Trust Fund and not the student.

(c) Procedures and guidelines for the administration of a Millennium Scholarship for students who are enrolled in more than one eligible institution.

Sec. 2. This act becomes effective upon passage and approval for the purposes of adopting regulations and performing any other preparatory administrative tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act, and on July 1, 2020, for all other purposes.

