

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.

