

BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER
Handbook Revision, Millennium Scholarship

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

Assembly Bill 96

Existing law provides that to be eligible for a Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship a student must be enrolled in at least 6 semester credit hours in a community college or 12 semester credit hours in another eligible institution. The law does not specify whether enrollment in more than one eligible institution affects a student's eligibility for a Scholarship or how to administer the Scholarship for such a student. Assembly Bill 96 (Chapter 38, *Statutes of Nevada 2009*) clarifies that a student who is enrolled in more than one eligible institution is eligible for a Millennium Scholarship if the student is enrolled in at least 12 credits and meets the other existing eligibility requirements. The provisions of AB96 are effective on July 1, 2009.

Senate Bill 209

Existing law prescribes the eligibility requirements for the Millennium Scholarship, including a requirement that a student must have graduated from a public or private high school in this State not more than 6 years before he applies for the Millennium Scholarship. Existing law also authorizes the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada to establish criteria with respect to certain students who have been on active duty serving in the Armed Forces of the United States to exempt such students from the 6-year limitation on applications for the Millennium Scholarship. Senate Bill 209 (Chapter 192, *Statutes of Nevada 2009*) requires the Board of Regents to establish criteria with respect to students who actively served or participated in a charitable, religious or public service assignment or mission to exempt such students from the 6-year limitation on applications for the Millennium Scholarship. The provisions of SB209 are effective on July 1, 2009.

Staff recommends revising the Board's current policies on the Millennium Scholarship program to align the new provisions established in AB96 and SB209.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Amend Title 4, Chapter 18, Section 19 to align the Board's current policy on the Millennium Scholarship with the new provisions established in AB96 and SB209 of the 2009 Session of the Nevada State Legislature. (See attached Policy Proposal.)

IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

The recommended revisions to Board policy are prepared in response to the passage of AB96 and SB209, effective July 1, 2009.

BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- The 12 credit co-enrollment rule established under AB96 provides clarification on the matter of co-enrollment for eligibility purposes and will encourage students to graduate on time.
- The exemption to the 6-year application rule established under SB209 encourages students to pursue endeavors such as charitable work, religious missions and public service participation without fear of losing the Millennium Scholarship.

POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

None.

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

The Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship is created in state law and therefore, to the extent specified in state law the provisions of Board policy on the Millennium Scholarship must align with the statute.

COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title #____ Chapter #____ Section #____
- Amends Current Board Policy: *Title 4, Chapter 18, Section 19*
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter #____ Section #____
- Other:_____
- Fiscal Impact: Yes____ No____
Explain:_____

POLICY PROPOSAL
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 18, SECTION 19 (in part)
Millennium Scholarship

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

19.1 Eligibility requirements for Nevada high school graduates.

19.1.1 To be eligible for a Millennium Scholarship, a student must meet all of the following requirements:

- a. graduate¹ with a diploma from a public or private high school in Nevada after May 1, 2002²;
- b. complete high school, with at least a:
 - 1. 3.00 weighted or unweighted grade-point average on a 4.0 grading scale, if the student graduated prior to the graduating class of 2005;
 - 2. 3.10 weighted or unweighted grade-point average on a 4.0 grading scale, if the student was a member of the graduating class of 2005 or 2006; or
 - 3. 3.25 weighted or unweighted grade-point average on a 4.0 grading scale, if the student was a member of the graduating class of 2007 or a later graduating class.

(B/R 6/05)

- c. pass all areas of the Nevada High School Proficiency Examination; and
- d. have been a resident of Nevada, as defined by the residency requirements in Title 4, Chapter 15, for at least two years of high school.

19.1.2 All high school credit-bearing courses accepted toward fulfilling the high school's graduation requirements will be used in calculating the final grade point average.

19.1.3 A student who graduated from high school after May 1, 2003, must apply for the Millennium Scholarship within 6 years of high school graduation in order to be eligible for receipt of scholarship funds. *Time served on active duty as a member of the United States Armed Forces, or for participation in a charitable, religious or public service assignment or mission will not apply to the limitations of this section, not to exceed six years.*

19.1.4 A student who graduated from high school in Spring 2009 and thereafter must successfully complete the core curriculum defined in Section 19.14 to gain eligibility. (B/R 8/08)

19.2 Eligibility requirements for students who are not high school graduates.

19.2.1 To be eligible for a Millennium Scholarship, a student who is not a high school graduate must meet all of the following requirements:

- a. would have graduated from high school after May 1, 2000 had the student been enrolled in high school;
- b. receive an enhanced ACT composite score of 21 or higher or a combined recentered SAT score of 990 or higher;
- c. achieve at least the following grade point average in all courses completed in a Nevada high school as defined in section 19.1.2:
 - 1. 3.00 weighted or unweighted grade-point average on a 4.0 grading scale, if the student graduated prior to the graduating class of 2005;
 - 2. 3.10 weighted or unweighted grade-point average on a 4.0 grading scale, if the student was a member of the graduating class of 2005 or 2006; or

¹ Students who graduate with a diploma from a program for adult learners are eligible for the Millennium Scholarship if they (1) received their high school diploma within four years of the regularly scheduled graduation date of their class, and (2) meet the remaining conditions of 19.1.1. (B/R 8/03)

² Students who graduate with the class of 2000 are eligible for a Millennium Scholarship regardless of when they completed their high school course work. (B/R 6/05)

3. 3.25 weighted or unweighted grade-point average on a 4.0 grading scale, if the student was a member of the graduating class of 2007 or a later graduating class. (B/R 6/05)

- d. pass all areas of the Nevada High School Proficiency Examination; and
- e. have been a resident of Nevada, as defined by the residency requirements in Title 4, Chapter 15, for at least two years of the normal years of high school attendance.

19.2.2 A student who is not a high school graduate must apply for the Millennium Scholarship within the limitations established in section 19.1.3 for his normal year of high school graduation.

19.3 Eligibility requirements for students whose family or legal guardian is a resident of the State of Nevada and who graduate from high school out-of-state.

19.3.1 To be eligible for a Millennium Scholarship, a student who is not a Nevada high school graduate, but whose family or legal guardian is a resident of the State of Nevada, must meet all of the following requirements:

- a. graduate with a diploma from a public or private high school after May 1, 2000;
- b. complete high school, with at least a:
 - 1. 3.00 weighted or unweighted grade-point average on a 4.0 grading scale, if the student graduated prior to the graduating class of 2005;
 - 2. 3.10 weighted or unweighted grade-point average on a 4.0 grading scale, if the student was a member of the graduating class of 2005 or 2006; or
 - 3. 3.25 weighted or unweighted grade-point average on a 4.0 grading scale, if the student was a member of the graduating class of 2007 or a later graduating class. (B/R 6/05)
- c. pass all areas of the Nevada High School Proficiency Examination, and
- d. establish residency by:
 - 1. Providing evidence that a parent has been a resident of the State of Nevada, as defined by the residency requirements in Title 4, Chapter 15, for the last two years of the student's high school attendance and verifying financial dependence on the parent; or
 - 2. Providing evidence that a parent who is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, on active duty, and stationed outside Nevada as a result of a permanent change of duty station pursuant to military orders, was a resident of the State of Nevada as defined by the residency requirements in Title 4, Chapter 15, for the last two years of the student's high school attendance and verifying financial dependence on the parent. (B/R 8/03)

19.3.2 A student who is not a Nevada high school graduate must apply for the Millennium Scholarship within the limitations established in section 19.1.3.

19.4 Certification of eligibility for high school graduates will be established by a list provided by Nevada high schools. In other circumstances, evidence may be submitted by applicants to the Millennium Scholarship Office.

19.5 A Nevada resident who meets the requirements set forth in section 19.1, 19.2 or 19.3 shall receive a Millennium Scholarship if the student:

- a. enrolls in at least 6 semester credits at an eligible community college or 12 semester credits at another eligible institution; and
- b. enrolls in a program of study leading to a recognized associate degree, baccalaureate degree, or pre-baccalaureate certificate.

Credits taken at another eligible institution to meet degree requirements at the student's home institution ~~[may]~~ **shall** count towards the requirement of 19.5(a) ~~[only with approval of the home institution and under institutionally established procedures and requirements]~~ **provided the student enrolls at least 12 credits.**

“Home institution” means the institution at which the student is enrolled in a program of study leading to a recognized degree or certificate.

19.6 Millennium Scholarship lifetime limits

19.6.1 The maximum total Millennium Scholarship award is \$10,000.

19.6.2 All qualified students who graduated from high school on or before May 1, 2003, may receive a Millennium Scholarship during the eight academic years following (a) their high school graduation date³, or (b) the date when they satisfied the requirements of section 19.2.

19.6.3 All qualified students, who graduated from high school after May 1, 2003, may receive a Millennium Scholarship during the six academic years following (a) their high school graduation date⁴, or (b) the date when they satisfied the requirements of section 19.2. (B/R 8/03)

19.6.4 ~~An exception to the limitations of 19.6.2 and 19.6.3 [is made for qualified students who serve on active duty in the United States Armed Forces. Time served on active duty, not to exceed six years, will not apply to the limitations in 19.6.2 and 19.6.3.]~~ ***shall be made for time served on active duty as a member of the United States Armed Forces, or for participation in a charitable, religious or public service assignment or mission, will not apply to the limitations of this section, not to exceed six years.***

19.7 Students who have a documented physical or mental disability or who were previously subject to an individualized education program 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 institution to be exempt from the following Millennium Scholarship eligibility criteria:

- a. 6 year application limitation following high school graduation set forth in section 19.1.3;
- b. minimum semester credit hour enrollment levels set forth in sections 19.5 and 19.13(c); and
- c. time limits for expending funds set forth in sections 19.6.2 and 19.6.3. (B/R 6/05)

19.8 Millennium Scholarship recipients may enroll in and receive the scholarship for summer term as long as they meet all eligibility requirements and all continuation requirements, excluding the requirements of 19.5a.

19.9 A student may receive simultaneously Millennium Scholarship funding at more than one eligible institution if the student meets the eligibility requirements established in 19.5~~[(a) for the credits approved by the home institution].~~

19.10 The maximum amount of a Millennium Scholarship award each semester or summer term is determined on a dollars-per-credit enrolled basis as set by the State of Nevada⁵.

- a. Total semester disbursements shall not exceed the cost of 12 credits per semester across all eligible institutions based on dollar-per-credit rates set by the State of Nevada for the Millennium Scholarship.
- b. Millennium funds cannot be used to pay for remedial/developmental courses defined as any course with a course number less than 100.

(B/R 6/06)

19.11 The Millennium Scholarship may only be used for costs related to attendance that are not covered by other grants or scholarships. The financial aid office in each eligible institution shall administer the Millennium Scholarship and calculate the amount of the scholarship for each student. Costs of

³ In the case of a student graduating from a program for adult learners (see section 19.1.1), on or before May 1, 2003, the eight-year period is the period following the regularly scheduled graduation date of the student's original high school class.

⁴ In the case of a student graduating from a program for adult learners (see section 19.1.1), on or before May 1, 2003, the six-year period is the period following the regularly scheduled graduation date of the student's original high school class.

⁵ The dollars per credit hour as set by the State of Nevada are: (a) \$40 per enrolled credit in each lower division course and \$60 per enrolled credit in each upper division course for students attending a NSHE community college, (b) \$60 per enrolled credit for students attending a NSHE state college, and (c) \$80 per enrolled credit for students attending another eligible institution.

attendance shall be defined by the institution and shall include, but not be limited to, all costs defined under federal financial aid guidelines.

(B/R 6/05)

- 19.12 Appeals related to initial eligibility shall be handled on a case-by-case basis by a standing Millennium Scholarship Appeals Committee appointed by the Chair of the Board of Regents. The Committee shall consist of representatives of the Board of Regents, the NSHE's universities, state colleges and community colleges, one representative from an eligible non-NSHE institution, and the Governor and State Treasurer or their designees.
- 19.13 To remain eligible⁶ for a Millennium Scholarship, a student [~~with a Millennium Scholarship~~] 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 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 a 2.75 semester grade point average for each semester thereafter.
 - d. The student must satisfactorily complete the minimum credit requirements [~~in courses approved by the home institution~~] in each fall and spring semester in which enrolled [~~The minimum credit requirements~~] pursuant to section 19.5 [(a) require at least 6 semester credits if enrolled at an eligible community college and 12 semester credits if enrolled at another eligible institution.]
 - [e. The requirements of 19.13(e) must be met at each institution where the student is a Millennium Scholarship recipient for any fall or spring semester.]

⁶ After *initial* eligibility is established (as specified in sections 18.1, 18.2 and 18.3), determinations of continuing eligibility are made only after the student's *first* enrollment at an eligible institution with Millennium Scholarship support.