

BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER
HANDBOOK REVISION: Millennium Scholarship Policy

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

Title 4, Chapter 18, Section 18 of the Board Handbook currently contains language that is in conflict with current practice and state law providing that funds granted to Millennium scholars may not exceed the cost of 12 credits per semester at *any institution*. Therefore, it is feasible that under the current policy a Millennium Scholar who is concurrently enrolled at multiple NSHE institutions could receive Millennium Scholarship funding for credits exceeding the state established maximum of 12 credits. In its review, the Department of Academic and Student Affairs determined that the policy does not align with current practice or the intent of state law and must be clarified to specify that the 12 credit funding limitation is applicable *across* the System.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Amend Title 4, Chapter 18, Section 18.9 and 18.10 to align the Board's policy with current campus practice and making other technical changes as outlined in the attached amendment proposal.

IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

In April 2006, the Council of Presidents was notified that Board policy did not prohibit the payment of more than 12 credits across the NSHE, and requested that Board policy be reviewed and corrected as appropriate.

BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- Revising the language of Chapter 18, Section 18 will clarify unclear language and make it easier for campuses to interpret policy.
- Chapter subsections will be revised to correct conflicting information.
- Policies will be updated to reflect current campus practice.

POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

None have been brought forward at this time.

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

Maintain the status quo and leave the Chapter unrevised as currently written.

COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # _____ Chapter # _____ Section # _____
- Amends Current Board Policy: Title 4, Chapter 16, Sections 18
- Other: _____
- Fiscal Impact: Yes _____ No _____
Explain: _____

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 18, SECTION 18**

Additions in *boldface italics*; deletions ~~stricken~~

Section 18. Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship: Policy and Procedures

| | | | |
|-------|--|-------|---|
| 18.0 | Overview and Eligible Institutions | 18.11 | Cost of Attendance |
| 18.1 | Eligibility Requirements for Nevada High School Graduates | 18.12 | Appeals of Initial Eligibility |
| 18.2 | Eligibility Requirements for Students who are not High School Graduates | 18.13 | Maintaining Scholarship Eligibility |
| 18.3 | Eligibility Requirements for an Out-of-State High School Graduate Whose Family or Legal Guardian is a Resident of Nevada | 18.14 | Core Curriculum |
| 18.4 | Certification of Eligibility by High Schools | 18.15 | Regaining Scholarship Eligibility |
| 18.5 | Enrollment Requirements for Receipt of a Scholarship | 18.16 | Transferring within eligible institutions |
| 18.6 | Lifetime Limits | 18.17 | (section removed) |
| 18.7 | Students with Disabilities | 18.18 | Refunds |
| 18.8 | Summer School | 18.19 | Office of the State Treasurer |
| 18.9 | Enrollment at Multiple Institutions | 18.20 | Institutional Certification of Enrollment |
| 18.10 | Amount of the Scholarship | 18.21 | Limitations |

(B/R 3/06)

18.0 The State of Nevada established the Governed Guinn Millennium Scholarship in order to increase the number of Nevada students who perform well in high school and then enroll in, and graduate from an *eligible institution* of higher education in Nevada.

An eligible institution is an institution at which a qualified student may receive a Millennium Scholarship. Eligible institutions are:

- a. a university, state college or community college of the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE); or
- b. any other nonsectarian institution of higher education in Nevada that
 1. was originally established in, and is organized under the laws of the state,
 2. is exempt from taxation pursuant to 26 U.S.C. §501(c)(3), and
 3. is accredited by a regional accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education.

To receive a Millennium Scholarship, a student must meet the requirements of this Millennium Scholarship policy and enroll in an eligible institution. The admission requirements of eligible institutions may be different from the requirements for the Millennium Scholarship. The receipt of a Millennium Scholarship does not guarantee admission to all eligible institutions, nor does it

guarantee admission to all programs at eligible institutions. The NSHE recommends that students who plan to attend the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, or the University of Nevada, Reno, seek an advanced high school diploma and check with the institution for information on admission requirements.

(B/R 6/05)

18.1 Eligibility requirements for Nevada high school graduates.

18.1.1 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, 2000²;
 - 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.

18.1.2 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.

18.1.3 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. (B/R 6/05)

18.1.4 A student who graduated from high school in Spring 2010 and thereafter must successfully complete the core curriculum defined in Section 18.14 to gain eligibility. (B/R 3/06)

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

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 18.1.2:
 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;

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 18.1.1. (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)

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)
- 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.

18.3 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.

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)

18.4 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.

18.5 A Nevada resident who meets the requirements set forth in section 18.1, 18.2 or 18.3 shall receive a Millennium Scholarship if the student:

- a. enrolls in at least 6 semester credits at a NSHE 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.

18.6 Millennium Scholarship lifetime limits

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

18.6.2 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 18.2.

18.6.3 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 18.2.

(B/R 8/03)

An exception to the limitations of 18.6.2 and 18.6.3 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 18.6.2 and 18.6.3.

(B/R 8/03)

18.7 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 18.1.3;
- b. minimum semester credit hour enrollment levels set forth in sections 18.5 and 18.13(c); and
- c. time limits for expending funds set forth in sections 18.6.2 and 18.6.3.

(B/R 6/05)

18.8 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 18.5a.

18.9 A student may simultaneously receive a Millennium Scholarship at more than one eligible institution if the student meets ~~all of the following conditions~~ **the eligibility requirements established in 18.5(a)** at each institution in which the student is enrolled and seeks to receive a Millennium Scholarship:

- a. ~~The student must be enrolled in at least 6 semester credits if enrolled at a NSHE community college and 12 semester credits if enrolled at another eligible institution; and~~
- b. ~~The student must be enrolled in a program of study leading to a recognized associate degree, baccalaureate degree, or pre-baccalaureate certificate.~~

An exception to the requirements of 18.5 and ~~18.9(a)~~ is made for a student who is a Millennium Scholar at an institution where a course not taught by that institution is a requirement of the student's program. In that case, the required course, with the approval of the student's institution, may be taken with Millennium Scholarship support at a different eligible institution.

(B/R 6/05)

³ In the case of a student graduating from a program for adult learners (see section 18.1.1), 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. (B/R 8/03)

⁴ In the case of a student graduating from a program for adult learners (see section 18.1.1), 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. (B/R 8/03)

- 18.10 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. ~~Beginning January 1, 2006, total~~ **Total** semester disbursements ~~may~~ **shall** not exceed the cost of 12 credits per semester ~~at any eligible institution~~ **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 ~~math or English~~ course with a course number less than 100.

(B/R 6/05)

- 18.11 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 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)

- 18.12 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.

- 18.13 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 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 credit requirements at each institution in each fall and spring semester in which enrolled. The credit requirements pursuant to

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.

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.

section 18.5 (a) require at least 6 semester credits if enrolled at a NSHE community college and 12 semester credits if enrolled at another eligible institution. (B/R 3/04)

(B/R 6/05)

18.14 The Board recognizes the importance of a rigorous high school curriculum in adequately preparing students to succeed in college-level courses. Therefore, a student who graduates from a Nevada high school in Spring 2010 and thereafter must successfully complete the following curriculum in high school to be eligible for the Millennium Scholarship:

| High School Course | Units |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| English | 4 |
| Math (including Algebra II) | 4 |
| Natural Science | 3 |
| Social Science and History | 3 |
| TOTAL | 14 |

(B/R 3/06)

18.15 A Millennium Scholarship recipient who fails to maintain the conditions of continuing eligibility as required in Section 18.13 is no longer eligible for the Millennium Scholarship.

- a. Eligibility will be reinstated if the student subsequently enrolls without Millennium Scholarship support at an eligible institution for the credit hours and grade point average required in Section 18.13(b) and 18.13(c) for the semester enrolled. (B/R 3/04)
- b. Beginning in Fall 2005, all entering and continuing students who lose eligibility more than once (from Fall 2005 forward) will no longer be eligible for a Millennium Scholarship.

(B/R 6/05)

18.16 A student receiving a Millennium Scholarship who transfers to another eligible institution shall continue the Millennium Scholarship provided that the student has maintained eligibility as defined in Section 18.13. After transferring, a student must meet all the conditions of Section 18.13 at the new institution in order to remain eligible for the Millennium Scholarship.

18.17 (section removed)

18.18 Any refund that would normally be given to a student who has withdrawn from courses for which Millennium Scholarship support has been given shall be transferred to the State Treasurer's Office.

18.19 The Millennium Scholarship Office established by the State Treasurer is responsible for transferring funds in a timely fashion to eligible institutions for all Millennium Scholars, maintaining data on all Millennium Scholarship candidates and recipients, and verifying that students have not exceeded the \$10,000 lifetime maximum.

18.20 The State Treasurer shall prepare a list of all eligible Millennium Scholars for each graduation year. This list shall be conveyed to the Chancellor for transmittal to the Board of Regents. The Chancellor may act on behalf of the Board of Regents to certify the list of eligible students to be transmitted to the State Treasurer.

(B/R 8/03)

18.21 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.

(B/R 4/02)