

BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER
Handbook Revision, Millennium Scholarship

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

Currently, Board policy includes eligibility requirements for the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship, as required by Chapter 396 of *Nevada Revised Statutes (Title 4, Chapter 18, Section 9)*. Board policy specifies that students must pass all areas of the Nevada High School Proficiency Examination (HSPE) to be eligible for the Millennium Scholarship. With the passage of Assembly Bill 288 (Chapter 506, *Statutes of Nevada 2013*), the Nevada Legislature eliminated passage of the HSPE as a requirement for receiving a standard high school diploma starting with the graduating classes of 2017. In lieu of passage of the HSPE, A.B. 288 requires students to pass at least four end of course examinations to receive a standard high school diploma.

System staff recommends revising Board policy to conform with A.B. 288 and to clarify other provisions relating to eligibility and the administration of the Millennium Scholarship as follows:

1. **HSPE Changes:**
 - a. **Nevada High School Graduates (Section 9.1.1)** – Eliminate the requirement to pass all sections of the HSPE for Millennium Scholarship eligibility starting with the Nevada high school graduating class of 2017. (Graduating classes through 2016 must still pass all areas of the HSPE to be eligible.)
 - b. **Home-school Students (Section 9.2.1)** – Eliminate the requirement to pass the HSPE (same timeframe as above). These students must still meet the existing benchmarks on the ACT or SAT.
 - c. **Students whose family is in state but who graduated from a high school out of state (Sec. 9.3.1)** – Eliminate the requirement to pass the HSPE (same timeframe as above) and add a requirement to meet the same benchmarks on the ACT or SAT as the home-school students for consistency since these students also did not graduate from a Nevada high school.
2. **Core Curriculum Requirements (Section 9.14.1)** – Clarify that the math units within the core curriculum requirement include Algebra II "or higher" to address situations in which a student clearly has met the Algebra II requirement, but his/her high school transcript may not reflect "Algebra II". These situations include, for example, international students who are now taking - or have already passed - very advanced math courses (calculus, etc...) and may have had Algebra II well before his/her high school years.
3. **Residency Requirement** – Remove unnecessary references to residency provisions under Title 4, Chapter 15 of the *Handbook* because NRS 396.930 specifies a 2-year residency requirement for eligibility for the Millennium Scholarship.
4. **Technical Revisions** – Revise Board policy to correct internal section references, clarify the language governing reinstating eligibility after a student has been enrolled in an NSHE institution and lost eligibility (Sec. 9.15), and update the description on the ACT score from "combined recentered" to "combined (reading and math)" for clarity.

In developing the proposed revisions, System staff consulted with the State Superintendent to ensure that his office is aware of and concurs with the revisions as they are consistent with A.B. 288. In addition, System staff informed the Treasurer's Office, which administers with Millennium Scholarship Trust Fund, of the proposed revisions and received no objections.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Amend Board policy to remove references to the HSPE as an eligibility requirement for the Millennium Scholarship, revise the core curriculum requirements to include "Algebra II or higher" within the math units, and make other technical corrections to ensure clarify and consistency. (See the attached policy proposal.)

IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

These policy revisions are needed to accurately reflect the eligibility requirements for the 2017 and future graduating classes following action by the 2013 Legislature to eliminate the HSPE. The additional policy changes are also necessary to provide consistent eligibility requirements for and administration of the Millennium Scholarship.

BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- The policy revisions relating to the HSPE and residency requirements are necessary to ensure Board policy is consistent with the eligibility requirements for the Millennium Scholarship under Chapter 396 of the NRS.
- Specifying that the required core curriculum for math also includes courses higher than Algebra II will provide clarity for students and school districts.
- The changes within the proposed policy, including the technical revisions, provide clarity and consistency within Board policy for students, institutions, school districts, and the Treasurer’s Office.

POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

None have been presented.

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

None have been presented.

COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title #_____ Chapter #_____ Section #_____
 - X Amends Current Board Policy: *Title 4, Chapter 18, Section 9*
 - Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter #_____ Section #_____
 - Other:_____
 - Fiscal Impact: Yes_____ No **X**_____
- Explain:_____

POLICY PROPOSAL
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 18, SECTION 9
Millennium Scholarship – Clarification on Eligibility

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

Section 9. Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship: Policy and Procedures

9.0	Overview and Eligible Institutions	9.11	Cost of Attendance
9.1	Eligibility Requirements for Nevada High School Graduates	9.12	Appeals of Initial Eligibility
9.2	Eligibility Requirements for Students who are not High School Graduates	9.13	Maintaining Scholarship Eligibility
9.3	Eligibility Requirements for an Out-of-State High School Graduate Whose Family or Legal Guardian is a Resident of Nevada	9.14	Core Curriculum
9.4	Certification of Eligibility by High Schools	9.15	Regaining Scholarship Eligibility
9.5	Enrollment Requirements for Receipt of a Scholarship	9.16	Transferring within Eligible Institutions
9.6	Lifetime Limits	9.17	Citizenship Affidavit
9.7	Students with Disabilities	9.18	Refunds
9.8	Summer School	9.19	Office of the State Treasurer
9.9	Enrollment at Multiple Institutions	9.20	Institutional Certification of Enrollment
9.10	Amount of the Scholarship	9.21	Limitations

9.0 The State of Nevada established the Governor 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 NSHE (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.

9.1 Eligibility requirements for Nevada high school graduates.

9.1.1 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.
- c. Pass all areas of the Nevada High School Proficiency Examination, *if the student graduated prior to the graduating class of 2017*; 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.

9.1.2 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.

9.1.3 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 State 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.

9.1.4 A student who graduated from high school in Spring 2009 and thereafter must successfully complete the core curriculum defined in Section 9.14 to gain eligibility

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

9.2.1 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~~] (*reading and math*) 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 9.1.2:
 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 9.1.1.

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.

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.
 - d. Pass all areas of the Nevada High School Proficiency Examination, *if the student would have graduated from high school prior to the graduating class of 2017 had the student been enrolled in high school*; 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.
- 9.2.2 A student who is not a high school graduate must apply for the Millennium Scholarship within the limitations established in section 9.1.3 for the student's normal year of high school graduation.
- 9.3 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.
- 9.3.1 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. Receive an enhanced ACT composite score of 21 or higher or a combined (reading and math) SAT score of 990 or higher if the student was a member of the graduating class of 2017 or a later graduating class;**
 - ~~b~~c. 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, **and;** [-]
 - ~~e~~d. Pass all areas of the Nevada High School Proficiency Examination *if the student graduated from high school prior to the graduating class of 2017*, and
 - ~~e~~e. 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.
- 9.3.2 A student who is not a Nevada high school graduate must apply for the Millennium Scholarship within the limitations established in section 9.1.3.
- 9.4 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.

- 9.5 A Nevada resident who meets the requirements set forth in section 9.1, 9.2 or 9.3 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 shall count towards the requirement of 9.5(a) provided the student enrolls in 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.

9.6 Millennium Scholarship lifetime limits

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

9.6.2 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 ~~[10.2]~~ 9.2.

9.6.3 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 9.2.

9.6.4 An exception to the limitations of 9.6.2 and 9.6.3 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.

9.7 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 9.1.3;
- b. Minimum semester credit hour enrollment levels set forth in sections 9.5 and 1.13(c); and
- c. Time limits for expending funds set forth in sections 9.6.2 and 9.6.3.

9.8 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 9.5a.

9.9 A student may receive simultaneously Millennium Scholarship funding at more than one eligible institution if the student meets the eligibility requirements established in 9.5.

³ In the case of a student graduating from a program for adult learners (see section 9.1.1), 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 9.1.1), 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.

- 9.10 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.
- 9.11 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.
- 9.12 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.
- 9.13 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 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 each Fall and Spring semester in which enrolled pursuant to section 9.5.
- 9.14 Core Curriculum Requirements
- 9.14.1 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 2009 and thereafter must successfully complete the following curriculum in high school to be eligible for the Millennium Scholarship:

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 [~~10.1, 10.2 and 10.3~~] **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.

High School Course	Units
English	4
Math (including Algebra II <i>or higher</i>)	4
Natural Science	3
Social Science and History	3
TOTAL	14

- 9.14.2 A student who graduates from a Nevada high school in 2009, who was not able to complete the fourth year math requirement established in subsection 1 because it was not offered by the high school from which he or she graduated and the course was not accessible from an NSHE institution, shall be deemed eligible for the scholarship if all other eligibility requirements established in this Chapter are met.
- 9.14.3 The Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs shall develop procedures regarding the certification of high school courses that meet the core curriculum requirements established in subsection 1.
- 9.15 A Millennium Scholarship recipient who fails to maintain the conditions of continuing eligibility as required in Section 9.13 is no longer eligible for the Millennium Scholarship.
- 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 9.13(b) and 9.13(e)~~] **and meets all the conditions of Section 9.13** for the semester enrolled.
 - 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.
- 9.16 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 9.13. After transferring, a student must meet all the conditions of Section 9.13 at the new institution in order to remain eligible for the Millennium Scholarship.
- 9.17 **Citizenship Affidavit**
All students eligible to receive the Millennium Scholarship are required to execute an affidavit declaring the student's eligibility for a Millennium Scholarship pursuant to the requirements of *Nevada Revised Statutes* 396.930. The affidavit shall appear on both the printed and on-line acknowledgment of the award form that a student is required to complete prior to receiving the Millennium Scholarship. The affidavit shall consist of a declaration that the student is a citizen of the United States or has lawful immigration status, or that the student has filed an application to legalize the student's immigration status or will file an application to legalize the student's immigration status as soon as the student is eligible to do so. This affidavit shall not require a notarized signature.
- 9.18 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.
- 9.19 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.

- 9.20 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.
- 9.21 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.