

BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER
Handbook Revision, Millennium Scholarship Eligibility

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 396.930 establishes the eligibility requirements for the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship 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 establishes related provisions.

The 2015 Legislature passed Assembly Bill 150, which extends eligibility for the Millennium Scholarship to students who do not meet the minimum grade point average requirement, but who receive a certain score on a college entrance examination administered to the student while the student was enrolled as a pupil in a public or private high school in this State. This bill requires the Board of Regents to establish such score requirements.

Existing Board policy governing eligibility for graduates of a Nevada high school includes only the minimum grade point average (GPA) requirement. Minimum GPA requirements for eligibility are also included in Board policy for homeschool students (in certain circumstances where they have taken courses in high school) and for students who graduated from a high school in another state but whose family members are Nevada residents. Unlike Nevada high school graduates, in addition to meeting the minimum GPA requirements, these students must also receive an enhanced ACT composite score of 21 or higher or a combined (reading and math) SAT score of 990 or higher. The current ACT/SAT requirement for students who graduate in another state (but whose parents are Nevada residents) is intended as a substitute for the elimination of the High School Proficiency Examination in 2017. The ACT/SAT requirement for homeschool students has been in place since the program's inception.

System staff recommends amending Board policy consistent with the provisions of A.B. 150 to extend eligibility for the Millennium Scholarship to all students who do not meet the minimum GPA requirement, but who receive an enhanced ACT composite score of 21 or higher or a combined (reading and math) SAT score of 990 or higher. These students must still meet other eligibility requirements, including high school core curriculum requirements.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Amend *Title 4, Chapter 18, Section 9* of the Handbook to align with A.B. 150 passed by the 2015 Legislature and extend eligibility for the Millennium Scholarship to all students who do not meet the minimum grade point average requirement, but who receive an enhanced ACT composite score of 21 or higher or a combined (reading and math) SAT score of 990 while the student was enrolled in or would have been enrolled in (i.e. homeschool students) high school. (See attached policy proposal.)

IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

This proposal is brought forward to revise Board policy regarding Millennium Scholarship eligibility in response to A.B. 150, which was passed by the 2015 Legislature and is effective on July 1, 2015.

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 new State law in determining eligibility at the high school level for counselors, students and parents and by the Treasurer's Office.

POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

None have been presented at this time.

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

None have been presented at this time.

COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # _____ Chapter # _____ Section # _____
- Amends Current Board Policy: Title # 4 Chapter # 18 Section # 9.1, 9.2, 9.3 and new 9.4
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # _____ Section # _____
- Other: _____

- Fiscal Impact: Yes _____ No X _____

Explain: This change will have no fiscal impact on NSHE. The revised eligibility criteria may result in a fiscal impact on the Millennium Scholarship trust Fund and that impact cannot be determined at this time.

POLICY PROPOSAL

TITLE 4, CHAPTER 18, Sections 9.1, 9.2, 9.3 and *new* SECTION 9.4 Millennium Scholarship – Eligibility Requirements

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

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. ***Except as otherwise provided in Section 9.4, complete*** [~~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 for at least two years of high school.

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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 (reading and math) SAT score of 990 or higher;
 - c. ***Except as otherwise provided in Section 9.4, achieve*** [~~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
 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 for at least two years of the normal years of high school attendance.

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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.

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.

- 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;
 - c. ***Except as otherwise provided in Section 9.4, complete*** [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;
 - 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. Establish residency by:
 1. Providing evidence that a parent has been a resident of the State of Nevada 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 for the last two years of the student's high school attendance and verifying financial dependence on the parent.

Section 9.4 Eligibility requirements for students who do not satisfy the minimum grade point average requirements under Sections 9.1, 9.2, or 9.3

A student who does not satisfy the minimum grade point average requirements under Sections 9.1, 9.2, or 9.3 is eligible for the Millennium Scholarship if the student:

- a. ***Was a member of the graduating class of 2016 or a later graduating class;***
- b. ***Receives an enhanced ACT composite score of 21 or higher or a combined (reading and math) SAT score of 990 and the examination was administered while the student:***
 1. ***Was enrolled in a public or private high school if the student is applying for the Millennium Scholarship under Sections 9.1 or 9.3; or***
 2. ***Would have been enrolled in high school if the student is applying for the Millennium Scholarship under Section 9.2; and***
- c. ***Meets all other eligibility requirements applicable to the student under Section 9.1, 9.2, or 9.3.***

RENUMBER SECTIONS 9.4 THROUGH 9.21 AS 9.4 THROUGH 9.22