

BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER
Millennium Scholarship – Credit Requirements

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 396.930 establishes the eligibility requirements for the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship, including minimum credit loads, and sets forth the related duties and powers of the Board of Regents. In addition, NRS 396.934 sets forth the maximum number of credits for which a student may receive an award under the Millennium Scholarship. 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 2015 Legislature passed [Senate Bill 128](#), which increases from 6 to 9 the minimum number of credit hours in which a community college student must be enrolled in order to be eligible for the Millennium Scholarship. This bill also increases the amount a student may receive from a Millennium Scholarship for a semester from not more than the cost of 12 semester credits to 15 semester credits.

Senate Bill 128 is based on the recommendation of the Nevada System of Higher Education in support of the Board of Regents' completion agenda and its "15 to Finish" campaign that encourages students to enroll full-time and graduate on time.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

To comply with the provisions of Senate Bill 128, amend *Title 4, Chapter 18, Section 9.5* of the *Handbook* to increase from 6 to 9* the minimum number of semester credits a student must enroll in at an eligible community college in order to receive a Millennium Scholarship. In addition, Amend *Title 4, Chapter 18, Section 9.10* to provide that total semester disbursements under the Millennium Scholarship shall not exceed the cost of 15 credits per semester. (See attached policy proposal.)

IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

This proposal is brought forward to revise Board policy regarding the Millennium Scholarship in response to the passage of Senate Bill 128, which was passed by the 2015 Legislature and is effective on July 1, 2015.

BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- This policy revision supports the Board's completion agenda and its "15 to Finish" campaign that encourages students to enroll full-time and graduate on time.
- 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 and making the appropriate disbursements at the institutional level 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 # 9.5 and 9.10
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # _____ Section # _____
- Other: _____
- Fiscal Impact: Yes _____ No X
- Explain: There is no fiscal impact on the NSHE or its institutions, but the statutory changes from S.B. 128 will increase disbursements from the Millennium Scholarship Trust Fund by approximately \$5 million to \$6.5 million per fiscal year.

*Corrected to reflect SB 128 and change in policy presented to the Board of Regents.

POLICY PROPOSAL
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 18, SECTION 9.5
Millennium Scholarship – Minimum Semester Credits for
Community College Students
Effective July 1, 2015

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

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 **9** [~~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.

POLICY PROPOSAL
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 18, SECTION 9.10
Millennium Scholarship – Maximum Amount and Number of Credits
Effective July 1, 2015

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

- 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 ***15*** [~~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.

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.